

**GS SCORE**

TEST - 06

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Time Allowed: 3 hr.

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.

107

Structuring of answer is good but need to add more updated & accurate factual content & examples in every answer. Don't just analyse, provide factual evidence to back your arguments.

Name K. PREM SAGAR

Mobile No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature K. Prem Sagar

1. Invigilator's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2. Invigilator's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*[Handwritten signature]*



# REMARKS

**GS SCORE**

Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|



## SECTION-A

Attempt all questions:

1. Answer the following questions in about 150 words each:

(10 × 5 = 50)

- (a) Gilgit-Baltistan Issue
- (b) India's Development Partnership
- (c) IBSA Declaration on South-South Cooperation
- (d) Arms Trade Treaty
- (e) 10<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit: The journey so far.

a) The Gilgit-Baltistan refers to the most sensitive and contentious region of India-Pakistan relations. Pakistan has incorporated some part of Pak-occupied Kashmir into Gilgit-Baltistan province. Also, it not only impact territorial sovereignty of India but also the human rights of those citizens are severely violated.

Pakistan also utilised this area as the base to train terrorists with base camps, Madrasas and then infiltrate them into Kashmir using geographical advantages and Line of Control fire violations.

This coupled with the fact that Afghanistan issue

Remarks



of imminent US withdrawal with peace talks with taliban can further destabilise security of Jammu & Kashmir and hinterlands of India.

Also from the Border Security and Indus Water Treaty perspective as well, this area is most contested. So, there is urgent need to develop strategy to engage Pakistan in addressing this issue.

India's development partnership forms the heart of India's South-South partnership. As realized and being evolved from 1960s, it involves engaging with global south countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America in improving human resource, technical, economic capacities.

- i) TEAM 9: It is Indian-African partnership programme involving 8 countries of Western Africa of Gulf of Guinea helping them develop & utilise oil for trade & development.
- ii) ATEC: Initiated in 1964, it already had many projects.

Remarks

Free  
in  
Tons  
herent  
of  
Packing  
highlight  
Balkistan  
or  
der  
2018  
b)  
the  
challenges  
it  
creates  
for  
India



in African countries improving capacities, governance structures, ranging from health, education to medicine.

ii) India - UN Global South Fund: Under triangular partnership model, India contributed & pledged to \$100 million fund for Global South in achieving sustainable development targets.

iii) Pan African e-Network - Conceived by APJ Abdul Kalam, it helps develop internet infrastructure to enable tele-education and tele-medicine by linking India & Africa

iv) RIS - Research & Economic Information System is think tank that helps African & South countries build capacities in international negotiations, skills of diplomacy etc.,

Thus India's development partnership now needs to be harmonized with political & strategic aspect of relations for all round development of Region & relations.

5

Remarks

Give some elaboration on the quantum of funds being donated

---

what are the implications of RIS

---

cheque book diplomacy in context of Chinese cheque book diplomacy



c) IBSA declaration on South-South Cooperation

India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) as explained by Rajiv Bhatia is a crucial organization & bulwark in protecting and expanding developing and least developed countries' interests in global order.

It eventhough saw a lull after BRICS rose to prominence, IBSA is still more relevant to the principles of South-South Cooperation. The declaration proposed IBSA fund which already developing 27 projects in Latin American & Caribbean nations.

- i) IBSA also intends to improve capacities of least developed countries of South
- ii) More IBSA fund contributions & operationalisation of projects
- iii) Extension of special & differential treatment to LDC countries
- iv) Expanding technical & economic partnership for South-South cooperation

Remarks

3

a bit vague  
you need to specifically elaborate on the principles from this year's declaration

New with South-South cooperation  
South-South complement South cooperation



d) Arms Trade Treaty

The Arms Trade Treaty is significant with respect to controlling terrorism, insurgencies, human rights violation and Arms Smuggling.

It prohibits illegal sale of weapons especially assault guns to non mediated countries, groups or individuals without prohibition. It also prohibits sale to any UNSC sanctioned groups, terrorist groups, countries there by limiting exploitation of weapons.

However this treaty is limited to conventional weapons and doesnot include high end missiles, aircrafts, helicopters, military high end equipment.

Also many countries like Cuba, Venezuela accuse of US of dominating Arms Trade Treaty with its vested interests not following Rule of Law or fairness. Also to evolve to latest technological developments, there is a need to reform

Remarks

Need to evaluate reasons for impact of US withdrawal from why hasn't India signed this

(4)



\* revise arms trade treaty .

e) 10th BRICS Summit: The Journey so far

The BRICS was the model of emerging nations and is considered as reflection of Multipolar order.

Farooq Zakaria described it as shift of power from West to East. It envisioned reforming International political and Economic order based on principles of democratic, rules based, participative governance.

It was successful to an extent especially in economic order sense in creating New development bank, Currency Reserve agreement, pressuring even IMF & World bank to revise Quotas to adopt emerging realities of power.

However the same success was not visible in political order where as Gaishankar points out the similar consensus in reforming UNSC or UNCTA was not supported which was on same democratic principles.

Remarks



It was partially successful however in it's journey of  
10 summits in putting strong alternative voice on global  
stage. But there is need to fasttrack & exploit BRICS of  
its potential especially in evolving multipolar order.

Need examples of  
more achievements

Also talk about internal  
contradiction, challenges & failures  
of BRICS

9



2) Answer the following questions:

- (a) Is Central Asia a new frontier for the Indian foreign policy? Examine. (200 Words) (15)
- (b) Will it be correct to remark that China is the new USA for Pakistan? (Give your views based on examples.) (200 Words) (15)
- (c) One of the primary objectives for both New Delhi and Tokyo is to prevent the rise of a unipolar Asia dominated by one single hegemonic power. Elaborate. (250 Words) (20)

a) As former Ambassador P.S Raghavan says "when you have trouble with neighbours, it makes sense to ~~improve~~ ties with neighbours neighbours" holds significant with respect to CENTRAL ASIA FRONTIER of Indian foreign policy.

Besides Strategic and Security aspects, As Professor & External Affairs Minister Jaishankar promised to bring 'Look West' on par with 'Act East' finally fulfilling in form of first CENTRAL ASIAN DIALOGUE IN 2019 and with participating in Shanghai Cooperative Organization (SCO).

Central Asia is our neighbourhood as from ancient times and became an extended neighbourhood only after Geo political constructs of partition. So, from all perspectives such as from Trade, Emerging Central Asia with less than

Remarks



\$ 2 billion annual trade offers huge market for Indian Pharmaceuticals, IT, Agro-chemicals etc., The Central Asia also rose to prominence especially in backdrop of protectionism and setbacks to multilateralism.

It also makes sense from Energy Security as Turkmenistan supply gas to Kazakhstan - uranium hold crucial & Complimentarities to India's need. Central Asia also forms heart of India's connectivity to Eurasia through INSTC project - Chabahar.

Central Asia's stability and prosperity reflects in the region including Afghanistan & India. So, especially when US pullout is imminent, it is essential for both to collaborate for region peace countering fundamentalism & Radicalism.

However, the significant structural challenges are China's dominance in the region, obstruction of overland connectivity by Pakistan, Russia's sensitivities of its backyard

Remarks



India realizing this launched Air Freight Corridor and parallel Sea Corridor through Chabahar-Pran, Ashgabat agreement. With SCO, Russia also secure in hedging china with Indian participation.

Thus India need to cement on these initiatives and needs political visits and good will to regain the strategic foothold in western part and eventually combining Look West & Act East to make India geographical pivot of Region.

b) The recent global realignments and specifically in South Asia have been dynamic in backdrop of emerging Multi-polar Order is visible in Pakistan's relations with china and USA.

Pakistan has immensely benefitted from its relations with USA leveraging its Geo-geographical advantage & asymmetrical warfare options. But now as US looks for more isolationist policy of rolling back from Afghanistan, 'Global War on Terror'.

Remarks

Good structure & initiatives  
 Just need to mention of India  
 more examples in the region  
 like challenges our policy  
 is having in backing  
 Russia & China  
 Pakistan



to focus on challengers like china, Iran (As evident in Nuclear posture Review of US, 2018), Pakistan is also recalibrating its ties with china giving it the place of USA.

The recent \$45 billion CPEC project is at heart of this relation. This provides China not only economic but political & strategic leverage and access to Arabian Sea. This is despite growing domestic concerns on CPEC viability, debt, no advantages to locals etc.,

Especially soon after US announced its South Asia policy placing India as pivot and stopped assistance to Pakistan on realization of its declared ties for that aid. Pakistan has now turned to China as its economic defender. Recent PM Imran Khan visit to China for \$6 bn bailout from economic crisis is another instance.

Also, the diplomatic isolation of Pakistan on terrorism made China only poles apart for it. Recent frequent

Remarks



veries on Masood Azhar listing on UNSEC 1267 for record 3 times and accepted until global pressure was put on is another manifestation.

Having Pakistan elevating its relations with China as sweeter than honey, greater than Himalayas has inherent constraints. The Uighur treatment in China & cross linkages, growing resentment on CPEC & economic viability apart from concern of China of Taliban influence into Xinjiang etc can bring down the relationship.

Thus considering the new realignment especially in background of US withdrawal from Afghanistan, India needs to be cautious and use diplomatic left to navigate out of this troubled waters.

8

c) As former foreign secretary, Shyam Saran in his book 'How India sees World' explains the anchor of global order is being shifted from Transatlantic to Indo-Pacific,

Remarks: Analysis is good but you need to give examples of a lot more instances of how gradually China has replaced USA in almost all aspects of relationship. What kind of challenge does this alliance pose for India?



This Indo Pacific order cannot be and not in interests of Asia to be dominated by single hegemon especially when a multipolar world order emerging, it should be a multipolar Aka.

However, it is clearly evident that china is asserting its power, placing its vision and acting in the objective of creating china led Asian order. This is amply visible in chinese 9dash line, South China sea occupation and disregarding UNCLOS judgement. The vision of Belt and Road Initiative with strategic intentions of debt trap, cheque book diplomacy already aimed at bringing periphery countries into its fold.

So, the fundamental driver of India-Japan relationship lies in not letting Asia dominated by single hegemon. This is not strategic move only but these countries fundamental national, economic, political interests depend on free, fair and open channels of sea lines, transparent rules, rule of

Remarks



law etc., This is even more important when USA is withdrawing or retrenching to its core, leaving the Asia to its countries.

This was enrealized by Japanese PM Shinzo Abe in 2007 and formulated Indo-Pacific vision where two oceans confluence into each other and disturbance in any sea causes ripples in other. This further improved and resulted in Indo-Pacific term with Quad formation.

Also, Japan-India already started implementing this vision of fair & free, transparent mechanism of connectivity through Asia-Africa Growth Corridor, Joint projects in resource deficient vulnerable countries like Sri Lanka - Trinmalole project, UNQ etc.

Also, this vision of multipolar order is visible in Joint defence pacts, Acquisition & Support Services Agreement (ACSA), Malabar Exercises, Maritime domain awareness,

Remarks



Indo-Japanese partnership in South Asia & South East Asian projects ranging from North East development forum to Myanmar are manifestations.

However as <sup>Dr.</sup> ~~professor~~ Jaishankar highlights, Indo-Japanese partnership relationship is much beyond the key objective of ensuring Asia not being dominated by single hegemon, but to establish free, open, rules based order that helps the region prosper and peace survives.

So, Indian-Japan also should collaborate with other partners like France, UK who have stakes in Indian Ocean (c. Rajamohan) with keeping ASEAN as centrality to achieve inclusive, rules based, mutually beneficial order in Asia.

Remarks

what are the dimensions of this (China) relationship beyond need examples of initiatives & agreements b/w the two nations  
 Need to include  
 limitations of the relationship

8



4. Answer the following questions:

- (a) (With SAARC proving to be a "dysfunctional" grouping, BIMSTEC fits the bill and India started "trying to energize and develop" BIMSTEC "as almost a parallel to SAARC") (Throw light on the above statement with reference to India's growing engagement with BIMSTEC) (200 Words) (15)
- (b) (In the new changing world order, India-EU relations can grow, but there is a need to reallocate the focus from mere trade ties to many other areas including geostrategic issues.) Elaborate. (200 Words) (15)
- (c) (Discuss the relevance of Central Asia and Afghanistan in India's continental strategy) (Examine the importance of Central Asia Dialogue in the light of above statement) (Do you agree that India is building different dialogue platforms and institutions to increase its relevance in Central Asia?) (250 Words) (20)

a) In the background of growing protectionism in world and assembling institutions like WTO, the regional organizations like SAARC, RECP etc, role is paramount in sustaining economic growth and fighting common challenges.

But however SAARC still remains jammed with regional conflicts with no progress. This is especially even after making efforts by India to revive in 2014-16 like Motorvehicles Agreement, SAARC Satellite, SAARC FTA etc, all are thwarted by Pakistan.

This is on top of terrorist incidents - nothantkot derailed any movement in SAARC - 16<sup>th</sup> summit still not held.

Remarks



This is why Realists like C. Rajamohan says that Regional progress should not be held hostage to bilateral disputes and SAARC is not the only game in town, we should instead focus on BIMSTEC which is effectively SAARC-pakistan and Afghanistan.

Also Rajamohan argues that SAARC is topdown imposed geopolitical construct which never materialised, Instead in BIMSTEC, there is consensus for connectivity, cooperation which should be leveraging by investing energy & resources in it. Also, BIMSTEC forms heart of our ~~Look~~ ACEAST policy linking North-East to Bay of Bengal and to ASEAN.

The frequent BIMSTEC Summits, recent BIMSTEC military exercises, BBIN project, Indo-Myanmar-Thailand project, Mekong-Ganga apart from making Bay of Bengal Region prosperous, would also help lay foundation to leverage potential RCEP deal that can utilize NorthEast's

Remarks

Alternative road  
 the linkage b/w  
 East Coast  
 North  
 East  
 BIMSTEC



Potential.

However scholars like ~~Sh~~ Shuabini Haider, criticise this idea of BIMSTEC as parallel to SAARC as illogical and violates fundamental principles of both organizations establishment.

She explains that SAARC has shared cultural, historical identity that lacks in BIMSTEC, which is technical & economic organization.

So, BIMSTEC for now may appear vital and should play Complimentary role to SAARC not a replacement. It is both SAARC that can give India a global standing. so leveraging both should is in India's interest.

9

- b) The fundamental core of India-EU relations are Economic relations with annual trade of about \$80 billion, and EU is significant source for India's investment. EU is one of the top importer of India's goods. This relationship was expanded to strategic partnership in 2005 and also

Remarks

Need to provide an analysis how India's interests will be impacted to BIMSTEC by shifting A ignoring Pakistan in the long run



Bilateral trade & investment agreement (BITA) i.e., Free trade talks is still in progress from 2007.

Despite strategic partnership, the trade & economics dominate the relation, with little progress on terrorism, global liberal order protection, climate change, Connectivity-Infrastructure, Technology Cooperation which are of mutual Concom.

Elaborate on the ongoing cooperation in the direction  
 These especially provide huge potential to transform

relations in background of changing world order, When US especially & china both targeting liberal world order with US' AMERICA FIRST policy & china's CURRENCY MANIPULATION,

It is EU & India who can protect institutions of WTO, IMF etc, which are in interest of both.

Also, in strategic terms, especially when US acting unilaterally in West Asia with respect to both withdrawal from JCPOA and sanctions on Iran hurting both EU & India similarly

Remarks



US's policy of destructive isolationism in criticising NATO & withdrawal from INF treaty further gives impetus for EU & India to collaborate for global peace & rule of law.

Also in background of china induced division in EU through BRI based 16+1 union of Central & East European countries, non transparent connectivity and Common threat of growing terrorism can be well addressed by India-EU collaboration.

The most visible another area is climate change where both India-EU interests converge, in protecting Paris deal.

Also the growing flux of evolving multipolar order thus provides opportunities for India-EU to leverage and help protect & establish Rule of law, free & fair means of governance resulting in regional prosperity, and global peace.

So, there is urgent need for India-EU to diversify the partnership from Economy and to establish dialogue & constant engaging mechanisms to fight emerging challenges

10

Remarks

Include more examples of non traditional in two can cooperate what are the major And type of cooperation from both sides. limitations



together and take partnership to new level.

AS explained by our PM Modi, Central Asia and Afghanistan forms part of our Extended neighbourhood and India is conscious of the fact that prosperity and security of this region is in interests of India as well.

Relevance of Central Asia & Afghanistan:

Both of them form crucial part of our continental strategy to connect to West & to North of Eurasia. These regions are historically connected to India and only disconnected due to hostile neighbour - Pakistan depriving India of immense trade, economic potential.

Also from the trade perspective, this region is huge potential market for India and both have complemented. The Resource rich region can complement resource hungry India ranging from food to Energy.

Remarks



from Connectivity as well, It can link India to Eurasia, Russia and then to North sea route reducing logistics cost & time. The INSIC project with Chabahar project, Zehedan-Zerakam highway and then through Ashgabat offers a huge potential for development of region.

Even from Energy perspective, resource rich regions ranging from Natural Gas, Crude oil, Uranium can fulfill India's Energy security. Also, the stabilisation of Afghanistan, Security especially when US imminent withdrawal makes this region even more relevant from domestic security & Regions security. AS any destabilisation there will have ripples in India's North & Jammue Kashmir.

Central Asia Dialogue, 2019

This dialogue in this context is significant in overcoming the constraints, The first visible success from

Remarks



recent meet is establishment of Air freight Corridor on lines of Indo-Afghanistan Corridor. Also Government to Government meetings help address concerns of business, investment and facilitate trade. The recent endorsement of Central Asia of Afghanistan peace process should be Afghan-led, owned & controlled gives India leverage which is missing in US-Taliban peace talks.

So, it is in this context, as promised by Jaishankar in Raissa dialogue 2019 that he would bring India's LOOK WEST on par with ACE EAST on priority in being realized through India's SCO participation, PM Modi's visit to all 5 nations, CENTRAL ASIA DIALOGUE etc.,

Also, India in talks for FTA with Eurasian Economic Organization (EEO) that includes Central Asia highlights that India realizes the potential of region and tries to be part of its growth story.

Remarks

8th  
= 10

Need to make more on the significance of such bilateral institutional measures. Need to engage with Central Asia through presence of Russia, China, Pakistan



SECTION-B

Attempt all questions:

5. Answer the following questions in about 150 words each:

(10 × 5 = 50)

- (a) India's Nuclear Policy
- (b) Economic engagement with the USA
- (c) India's Diaspora Policy in the Middle East: Issues and Responses
- (d) India's approach towards UNSC reforms
- (e) New US Security strategy and India

a) India's Nuclear policy

As Shyam Saran says, "India's interests are better served in non nuclear world than nuclear world". India is a RELUCTANT NUCLEAR POWER which is manifested in its Nuclear doctrine & call for global disarmament. India is only country which called for global nuclear disarmament in its official nuclear doctrine.

only  
we  
reluctant

Also India is in front in leading these efforts from 1950's onwards on principle fair and rules based equal treatment of nations. As former president manabh Mukherjee in Japan, 2007 said, 'the only reason for India's

Remarks



not signing NPT is it is discriminatory, unfair treaty that divides world into have's & have not's".

Indian responsible nuclear policy stated also visible in voluntary separation of fuel cycle of civilian reactors and subjected to full scope IAEA safeguards in that area. India's admission into all nuclear technology control regimes except NSG is appreciation & recognition of its Responsible nuclear power with no proliferation record.

b) Post the civilian nuclear agreement, India-US <sup>(3)</sup> economic engagement has transformed manifold, what was initially called as FLAT CHAPATI'S with respect to India-US trade of \$10 billion in 2001-02 has now reached to \$140 billion by 2016-17.

However, there are also growing divergences & concerns being raised especially on America's first policy breaking allies & enemies alike.

Remarks

You need to focus on the use of nuclear power for credible minimum deterrence what are the demands for change in Nuclear Policy of India?



- i) US withdrawal India's GDP status worth \$6 billion
- ii) US president called India "Tariff King" asking to reduce tariffs on many products
- iii) The data localisation norms, medical stents, restrictions of dairy products and e-commerce norms are irritants raised in economic engagement

But as seen in G20 Osaka Summit, and Mike Pompeo's visit to India provided opportunity to resolve trade issues amicably to evolve relationship.

3

c) India's diaspora policy in Middle East

India has huge of about \$8 million diaspora in Middle East contributing significantly not only in soft power but also in remittances to economy

Issues

- i) Reactive policy of evaluations when crisis hits instead of shaping outcomes in Middle East peace

Remarks

No / 121 context  
 need to give a lot more factual examples regarding positive aspects of relationship  
 Also provide a medical to overcome the present entry



- ii) Securing human rights and fair wages for Indian diaspora
- iii) Securing legal and consular help ranging from passport, documents, to legal advice is lacking
- iv) Establish connect & facilitation with respect to economic opportunities & ~~more~~ protecting them from exploitation

### Responses

- i) Realising, now proactive policy of engaging with govt's of Gulf
- ii) In Recent Saudi missa visit, released 60,000 Indian prisoners
- iii) ALSO through diplomatic efforts, expanded consular help and advice to find fair jobs and working conditions
- But still there is need to of private, public and G-G and G-to-B cooperation to effective address 8 million strong diaspora

### Remarks

lack of  
coherent migration & rehabilitation  
minimal policy, issued wages

Content lacking, you  
need to give specific  
examples of govt  
initiatives



d) India's approach towards UNSC reforms

India is the most deserving candidate in UNSC P5 Permanent Seats has apart from asserting its claim has also sought for UNSC reforms.

It started this reform based on current political realities and representables from 1990's, from 1990 onward it took collaborative approach through 977 and 94 grouping.

It's primary approach is through 94 group - engaging Japan, Germany, Brazil, India pooling collective diplomatic pool to reform UNSC.

But this approach has its own limitations as Cofe club raised Uniting for Consensus which are not immunity opposite to India, but to the respective regional powers. Similarly Africa started EZLVHANI consensus.

So, India started parallel approach of bilateral support from P5 countries. Especially it received approval

Remarks

Need to elaborate on the specific strategy of increasing support in UNGA & reducing UNSC resistance in

3/4 = (4)



from US, UK, France & Russia in unambiguous terms. Only China, even though explicitly did not support, it said, "1.2 billion people cannot be rejected of a place in high table".

So, there is urgent need especially after 2015 test based negotiations to put more diplomatic capital in early conclusion of UNSC reforms to address multipolar order.

#### e) New US Security Strategy & India

In the recent 2018 National Defense Strategy, first time US has explicitly specified China and Russia as strategic competitors. Also the Nuclear Posture Review explicitly called for 30 year nuclear modernisation programme of \$1.3 billion.

This coupled with US withdrawal from INF treaty and renaming Afro-Pacific Command to Indo-Pacific placing India as pivot has several implications.

Remarks

China & Russia  
Revisionist Power



On one hand, it is an opportunity for India to leverage the security partnership with us. especially Realist like Rajesh Rajagopalan says that only with US help, India can address strategic skew balance with China.

on other hand, it reduces India's strategic manoeuvre space with strategic partners like us, Realist, Recent CAATSA launches threat on \$5400 trump is an example of it. Also, China being India's neighbour, we need to be refrain from confrontation. so India responded in Shangri La dialogue with STRATEGIC AUTONOMY & ASEAN Centrality in Indo-pacific order.

As foreign Minister Jaishankar says, India need to maximise opportunities and minimise challenges in this complicated evolving realignments to serve its interests better.

Remarks

work  
more

It mention India's  
21st Century global power

what kind of role is India in  
expected from South Asia (Central Asia)

4



8 Answer the following questions:

- (a) The maximum pressure strategy adopted by the US administration towards Iran could impact India-Iran relations. (Discuss the challenges and options that India has with reference to the given statement.) (200 Words) (15)
- (b) The 'blue economy' concept goes beyond the term 'ocean economy'. (Discuss the given statement with respect to transforming India-Africa relations.) (200 Words) (15)
- (c) Growing threat of transcendental ethnic and religious movements has made the gulf monarchies turn to nationalism as a remedy. Examine the statement in light of the changing political dynamics in the Middle East. (250 Words) (20)

a) There is a sudden growing tensions in Persian Gulf and West Asia starting after US withdrawal from JCPOA deal i.e., nuclear deal of P5+1 countries and Iran threatening Regional peace and Indian interests in particular.

USA under Trump administration as explained by C. Rajamohan under domestic political concerns, Israel, Saudi lobbying is aimed at Political Regime change in Iran by applying MAXIMUM PRESSURE strategy. It had unilaterally withdrawn from the deal and launched severe crippling sanctions on Iran oil & industries.

Highlighting Iran's asymmetrical warfare - proxy methods, it also had designated Iranian Revolutionary Guards

Remarks



as terrorist group and even sanctioning its Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei.

It did not even offered any waiver to its allies of EU or partners like India affecting all. Iran escalating this obstructed oil shipments in Persian Gulf. This slowly spiralling into chicken game where both sides deployed military assets and recent US drone shoot & consequent US almost launch of air strikes highlight threat of escalation into full blown war.

In this context, India is faced with tough challenges of

- i) Navigating between India-Persian strategic ties and Indo-US partnership.
- ii) The pressure of US sanctions already is affecting India's Energy needs, as Iran provides 'Reliable, cheap and security' of Energy, as highlighted by India's minister.
- iii) Also, the strategic project - 'Chabahar project' that is heart of

Remarks



India's Connectivity vision to Afghanistan, Central Asia is at stake with the threat of US Sanctions.

iv) Iran already warned of India to engage with Iran as regions peace & prosperity at stake

v) India 8 million strong diaspora & remittances in West Africa at stake

India's options

i) Realists like C. Rajamohan says it also provides opportunity for India to expand security presence & become new security provider of Region

ii) India can collaborate with EU in strengthening INSTEX - alternative payment system to evade US Sanctions

iii) Also, India should collaborate and form group with EU, Japan, South Korea in ensuring Iran sticks to nuclear deal to avoid nuclear proliferation & Iran in Iraq

iv) At same time, pressure on US to engage in constructive manner can bring peace in the region.

Remarks

7

What should be India's strategy to protect its strategy (autonomy)  
 what role can cooperation with Russia China (EU play in this)



b) PM Modi articulated the vision of 'Blue Economy' in not just in the sense of harnessing marine & mineral resources of Indian ocean jointly by the members but also in transforming the region through development partnership.

It has the subcomponents of

- i) Security cooperation
- ii) Development partnership
- iii) Harnessing Resources etc.,

It is clearly manifested in India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All) programme that helps in partnership to harness resources in Exclusive Economic Zone and patrolling the sea's. Already Maldives, Comoros, Seychelles, Madagascar have joined & implementing Costal Roadways & other social projects.

Also the Africa-Asian Growth Corridor project in Partnership with India-Japan & Africa is to be game changer

Remarks

Blue Economy  
has a ~~strong~~ computer  
sustainable development  
component



In addressing Infrastructure deficit and enabling trade based development model of Africa that too on host country terms & agreement.

The Humanitarian disaster relief especially India was first to respond when Cyclone Idai hit Mozambique explains the potential beyond net security provider role of India.

As C. Rajamohan notes there is growing Convergence & harmonisation between India's Africa development programmes like AFEC, Line of Credits etc, with Blue economy thereby enabling hinterlands of Africa connected to Coasts. Railway lines being built in Angola, Rwanda etc, highlights this.

Also, India's Blue Economy is not limited to Eastern Coast of Africa but is extended to Western Coast of Gulf of Guinea making & touching transatlantic Coast.

Thus this project has potential to transform from aid led to empowerment driven Africa that also transforms India-Africa Relations

Remarks

Content lacking  
Need to name country specific but India in  
Numerous country specific but India in  
most initiatives to West African region



c) There is a rapid shift of lands in Middle East and especially in Gulf Region. Traditional Pan Arab ethnic identities are being willingly transformed with nationalistic fervour to avoid any political fallout.

In North Africa to Gulf Region of Saudi Arabia, UAE, historically, there is trans ethnic pan Arab identity feeling but post 2011 especially with the arrival of Arab Springs and consequent ISIS rise driven fundamentalism have altered equations.

With threat of Arab Spring, which utilized trans arab identity anger against authoritarian leaders made them realize the need to introduce territorial barriers. Gulf countries seen it as near as Bahrain's - Manama protests in 2011

Also with Iran's rise & use of proxy groups and simultaneous ISIS has shown how the religious

Remarks



Fundamentalism and extremism can threaten patronage based Gulf monarchies.

So, to address this & undercut the trans identities, Saudi started already National day Celebrations, even Saudi festival - Jumu'ah and has raised nationalistic sentiments in War with Yemen. It is also under Crown Prince Mohamd. Bin Salman (MBS) has laid modern nationalistic reform programme to reinforce & build patriotism of Saudi citizens.

Similar attempts were made in UAE which is reconciling with its minorities and evolving a secular identity. All these also offer India more opportunities to establish close working relationship which was earlier constrained by Gulf solidarity with Pakistan.

This is already visible in UAE inviting India to Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) address under cutting Pakistan. Also, this helps India dehyphenate.

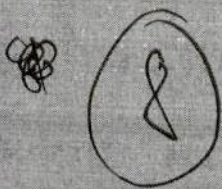
Remarks



Gulf - Iran relations by leveraging both partnerships.

However India needs to be cautious of the rapid realignments of Middle East as well in safeguarding its interests.

Need to work now  
 what-kind of challenges are  
 these regimes which are  
 compelling turn to shift to  
 a more national ~~centric~~ centric  
 identity.



Remarks