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Test - 06 (A+B)

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Section (CA)

Ques-1 Indo-Pacific region includes Indian ocean from west of African continent and continuing till Pacific Ocean - Eastern coast of American continents. In recent times, Indo-Pacific has got an increased attention and in which India can play an important role.

Prospects for India to become regional power in Indo-Pacific region:

① Strategic ^{Reasons} Regions

(a) US - China rivalry

over freedom of navigation and aggressive policy of China of claiming territorial rights over South China Sea. India on the other hand supports free, open, inclusive and integrated Indo-Pacific region through QUAD grouping.

(b) China's debt-trap policy through string of pearls approach. On the other hand, India's bilateral or multilateral engagements with the countries in this region.

on equal and transparent footing. For Eg: ~~Mattala~~ Mattala airport in Sri Lanka, Changi Naval Base of Singapore etc.

~~(c) India's multilateral approach to make Indo-pacific~~

(2) Security prospects

(a) Protecting important sea lanes of commercial communication, connecting important chokepoints like Strait of Hormuz, Strait of Malacca etc.

. India's initiative like SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region).

. Multilateral engagements like through IONS (Indian Ocean Naval Symposium), IORA etc.

(b) India's Naval ships sent to Strait of Hormuz in recent standoff near Iran.

(c) Disaster mitigation & responsiveness (HADR)

Indian Meteorological department has launched an alert system for Tsunami in Indian Ocean Region.

So, this is how, India can play a role in this Indo-Pacific region's development.

Que-3 India-Nepal shares an open border (Treaty of friendship 1950) and Nepal acts as a buffer state between India & China. But in recent past, India-Nepal relations are little soured.

- Causes for changing India - Nepal relations :-

① Border dispute on the India-Nepal border

- Disputed location - Kalapani territory, Lipulekh & Limpiyadhura in Uttarakhand.
- India recently developed road from Darachula to Lipulekh for Karakoram ^{Manasarovar} Yatra. It was criticized by Nepal.
- Different interpretations of Treaty of Sugauli.

② Big brotherly attitude of India : Nepal has sense of insecurity due to this attitude.

③ China's increasing interference in Nepal's affairs by opening up port facilities to Nepal, and signing agreements for all-weather ^{road} connectivity between Kathmandu & Tibet.

- How to resolve such issues

- Bilateral talks and discussions can solve the ongoing issues of border dispute. without allowing third parties like China to take benefit of soared relations.
- Confidence Building measures like increased high level integration can help in reducing the sense of insecurity in Nepal's mind. The platforms like BIMSTEC, SAARC etc. can also be used for this purpose.

This is how India-Nepal relations can be made better and can hasten the potential of our relations like economic benefits, political & strategic benefits.

Ques-5 UN Security Council is one of the 6 organs of the United Nations. and is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security. It is the only organ of UN with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states.

Prospects of India's permanent seat into UNSC:

① Status of India in the Global platform

- Largest democracy of the world existing since more than 70 yrs.
- One of the founding members of the UN.
- India is one of the fastest growing economy, 3rd largest economy in PPP terms in the world.
- Upholding the UN principles.

② • One of the largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping forces.

② Support by major Nations & groups

- G-4 block including Brazil, Germany, India & Japan, supports for the reforms in UNSC and also backs for the permanent seat to each other.

• P-5 nations except China, supports India's membership for permanent seat to UNSC.

Recently, India has been elected for non-permanent seat of UNSC for 2 year term. So, all these facts shows the prospects of India to become a permanent member of UNSC.

Que-7 India is located in between the 2.

aggressive neighbours - Pakistan and China. The relations with 2 neighbours has played a deciding role in political, economic and border security of India.

India's neighbourhood diplomacy

With China:

• Existing issues:

(a) Border dispute: Wuzha, Doklam standoff (2017) & recent standoff with China in Eastern Ladakh in Galwan valley, Pangong so lake etc. are some of the recent disputes. Eastern Indo-China Border have dispute over interpretation of Macdonald line & western border over Johnson line.

(b) River Water dispute: India has objected the construction of river dam on upper reaches of Brahmaputra river by China.

(c) Economic issues: Trade deficit lies with India over China. India has accused China for its economic dumping & protectionist policies.

(d) China's initiatives : like Belt & Road initiative

because of India's concerns over its lack of transparency about its objectives, debt-trap diplomacy & issue of sovereignty — China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

(e) Support to Pakistan for NSG membership, on Kashmir issue in UNSC etc.

What can be done :-

— By ~~see~~ re-imagining the spirit of informal summit — Wuhan - summit - 2018.

— Wuhan and Mamnulpuram summits acknowledged that India & China are not 'adversaries' but 2 large economies open to a healthy competition in a multipolar world.

— With Pakistan :

• Existing issues :-

(a) Border disputes :

• Over POK, continued LOC ceasefire violations.

(b) River-water dispute : over Indus-water treaty, 1960.

(c) Terrorism & security concerns

- Pakistan is alleged in promoting state-sponsored terrorism through militant groups like Jaish-e-Mohammed, Al-Qaeda etc.
- Cross-border terrorism - like Uri attack, Pathankot attack, Parliament attack of 2001 etc.
- Illegal drug trafficking, smuggling, etc.
- Threats in the Indian ocean region - through piracy, insurgency (like Mumbai terror attacks) etc.

What can be done :-

- Protecting borders → through Cold- & IT, mechanisms.
- Strengthening our forces defensive and offensive capabilities.
- At global platforms, urging for preventing terrorism like Convention on International Terrorism in UNSC, declaring global terrorists like Masood Azhar etc.
- Harnessing the potential of soft power - Bus links to Pakistan, Kartarpur corridor, sports etc.
- Using multilateral platform like SAARC.

So, as our former PM A.B. Vajpayee said, "we can change our friends but not neighbours", we need to deal with the conflicting issues with the neighbours and to have peace & harmony at borders.

Que-6 India-USA have seen ascendance of relationship in the 21st century, which was crystallised by signing 2008 India-~~China~~ ^{Civil} Nuclear Agreement. Also, the shared values of democracy, rule of law, respect to human rights binds the countries together.

Recently, India have signed the ~~first~~ foundational agreements i.e. BECA (Basic Exchange & Cooperation Agreement) out of 4 foundational agreements.

BECA :-

It will help India get real-time access to American geospatial intelligence that will enhance the accuracy of automated systems and weapons like missiles & armed drones.

Benefits of BECA :-

- It could help to Air force to Air force cooperation between India & USA.
- It will provide Indian military systems with high quality GPS to navigate missiles with real-time intelligence to precisely target the adversary.
- Also critical to the response to natural disasters.

Growing closeness in India-USA relations with signing such agreements have following significance —

- Enhanced cooperation between militaries can be seen as a deterrent in case of increasingly adversary aggressive China. — amid the ongoing standoff on the LAC in Ladakh.
- Such agreements mark the enhancement of mutual trust & a commitment to the long term strategic relationship.

So, in the era of growing protectionism and aggressiveness — such strategic relationships can serve as a mechanism to enhance its ~~stand~~ image in the Indo-Pacific region.

Que-8 The United Nations completed 75 years this year 2020. It came into existence in 1945 & includes 5 permanent members (China, France, Russia, UK and USA). At present, 193 members are there in UN. The main organs of UN are - General Assembly, UN security council, ECOSOC, Trusteeship Council & UN secretariat.

India is one of the founding members of the UN. India during cold war era was a staunch supporter of NAM (Non-Alignment) i.e. neither block was joined by India. India focussed on multilateralism without becoming a formal ally of one block. India's relationship with both USA (Civil Nuclear Agreement 2008 to today) and Russia (from friendship treaty of 1971 to today) shows its multilateralism along with being a part of part of G-20, BRICS, SAARC, etc.

How India can become from 'rule-taker' to 'rule shaper' :-

India's membership of UNSC as non permanent member.

Can allow India to become a participant in rule-making.

2. India being the one of the largest contributor to UN peacekeeping forces, allows it to be an important contributor in decision making in the security sphere.
 3. Justice Dalbir Bhandari, one of the judge of ICJ, allows participation in justicesphere.
 4. Chairmanship of UNCLOS by India forays.
 5. G-4 group (Brazil, India, Germany & Japan), strive for UNSC reforms.
 6. India gifted solar panels to be installed at the roof of the UN. → India's role in rule making for environment protection & climate change through International Solar Alliance.
 7. Focus on Convention on International Terrorism.
- These initiatives & participation of India can help it to become a global leader.

Ques-9 The UNSC is one of the 6 principal organs of the UN. Despite the drastic changes in geopolitics & international relations, the council has not been reformed yet.

Focus of reforms :-

The demand for reform of the UNSC is based on 5 key issues :-

- Categories of membership (permanent, non permanent)
- the question of the veto held by the 5 permanent members.
- Regional representation.
- relationship between UNSC & General Assembly
- size of an enlarged council & its working methods.

For the reforms to be inclusive, there is a need for the increased and inclusive regional representation.

Explain

- North-south divide :- The permanent members of the UNSC shows the big North-south divide in the decision making of security measures.

for eg: there is no permanent member from Africa, despite its 75% of work being founded in Africa only

- Inequitable economic & geographical representation:

While Europe is over-represented, Asia is under-represented while Africa and South America has no representation at all.

So, to make the reform process inclusive, regional representation to be given importance.

Ques-4 Data free flow with Trust aims to eliminate

restrictions on cross-border transfer of information by electronic means including personal information, and storing of data in foreign servers, for productivity, innovation & sustainable development.

DFFT also stresses on the importance of addressing challenges such as security, data protection & intellectual property that otherwise may public trust in digital technologies.

Why India refused to become signatory to DFFT :-

- ① Lack of clarity : over the concept of DFFT.
- ② Need to preserve the policy space of developing countries. because India, like many other ^{developing} countries ~~need~~ are still in the phase of preparing a legal & regulatory framework for its data protection & e-commerce laws.
- ③ Implications on equitable access of data — leading to digital divide between the countries.

④ India's data localisation rules could be undermined by the DFT.

⑤ Apprehensions that Osaka track could undermine talks on e-commerce taking place under the WTO work program on Electronic Commerce.

So, to solve these issues there is a need to encourage engagements on WTO, providing support to developing nations. Given the critical role played by data, as an enabler of economic growth, development & social well-being, any reforms related to data flows must preserve the core values such as non-discrimination, inclusiveness, recognition of special & differential treatment & consensus-based decision-making.