

NEXT IAS

GRADED ASSESSMENT TEST 2025

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : M25GAT01**TEST NO. : 01**Name of Candidate: ANANYA RANARoll No.: CAVA25ECL1569 Start Time 2:20pm End Time 3:50pmDate of Examination: 22nd JUNE 2025 Mobile No

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
Total Marks : 50		

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
6	15	
7	15	
8	15	
9	15	
10	15	
Total Marks : 75		

GRAND TOTAL -/ 125

EVAL CODE: GRADED DATE:

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Immediately on receipt of the QCA booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.
2. Candidates must mention all relevant details like Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile, etc. in the space allocated.
3. Candidate is expected to attempt all 10 questions within the given timeline.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized at the time of admission.
5. Candidates must write answers for the specific question under the respective question itself. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.
6. Please write neatly. Avoid illegible writing.
7. Do not write/mark irrelevant matters in the QCAB.
8. Only those copies that are submitted on the date of exam till 5 pm will be graded.

REMARKS:

MARKING SCHEME *

Marks Per Ques	Below Average	Average	Above Average
10 Marks	Below 2.50	3.00 - 3.50	4.00 and above
15 Marks	Below 4.00	4.00 - 5.50	6.00 and above

* Subject to change without prior notice.

MACRO COMMENTS

The Purpose of evaluation@nextias.com is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.'

STRENGTHS OF THE CANDIDATE

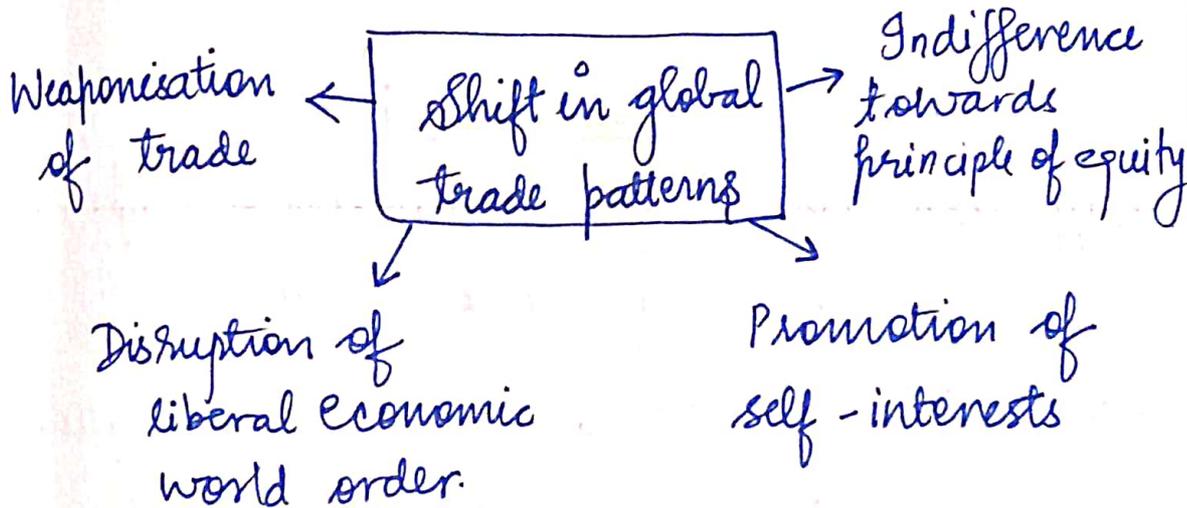
AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

The rise of inward-looking economic strategies in developed countries, such as the Reciprocal Tariff Plan of the USA, reflects a shift in global trade patterns. Analyse their geopolitical and economic implications for developing economies like India.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Trump 2.0 administration has waged a global trade war on both foes and allies reflecting a shift towards transactional diplomacy.



Implications of inward-looking economic strategies in developed countries on India

(I) Geopolitical

Positive	Negative
(1) India's personalised diplomacy may	(1) <u>American isolationism</u> leading to <u>leadership vacuum</u>

help gain some
leverage against
China

(2.) Failure of WTO as
the protector of free
trade.

(3) Rise of minilateralism

(eg) FTAs
RCEP etc.

(II) Economic

Positive

Negative

① May lead to
re-shoring of
some Indian industries

① Disruption of Global
Value Chains

② Tariff differential
may support Indian
exports.

② China's weaponisation
of natural resources
(eg) Rare earth elements

(eg) Textile sector
India - 27%.
Bangladesh - 37%.

③ Rise in policy of
'beggar-thy-neighbour'

Coercive actions can't lead
America to establish its economic clout.
Need of the hour is 'return to liberal
and rule-based economic order' within WTO

Examine Indian diaspora's role in enhancing India's global profile and contributing to its socio-economic development. Discuss the major challenges related to their welfare and engagement. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

'Indian diaspora act as a living bridge in India's rise'
— PM Modi'

Role of Indian diaspora in enhancing:

(I) India's global profile

(1) Among the world's cream

(eg) Sundar Pichai - Google, Satya Nadella - Microsoft

(2) Political significance enhancing India's image.

(eg) Rishi Sunak, Kamal Haaris, Kashi Patel (FBI)

(3) Shift to new diaspora from old ones ie from indentured labour to more techno-skilled.

(II) Socio-economic development.

(1) Economic remittances increasing each year. (eg) RBI report — \$124 bn

(2024) (highest in world)

(2.) Social benefits

(a) flow of ideas - liberalism etc

(b) Political lobbying - US-India
Civil Nuclear Deal

(c) Cultural diplomacy

eg) Howdy-Mody event

(d) Spread of Indianness - 'Little India'
in Australia.

Major challenges in diaspora's welfare
and engagement

According to Parliamentary Standing
Committee on Foreign Affairs:

(1.) No centralized database on diaspora.

(2.) Lack effective grievance redressal mechanism

eg) An Indian was pinned down in US
recently on allegations of illegal entry

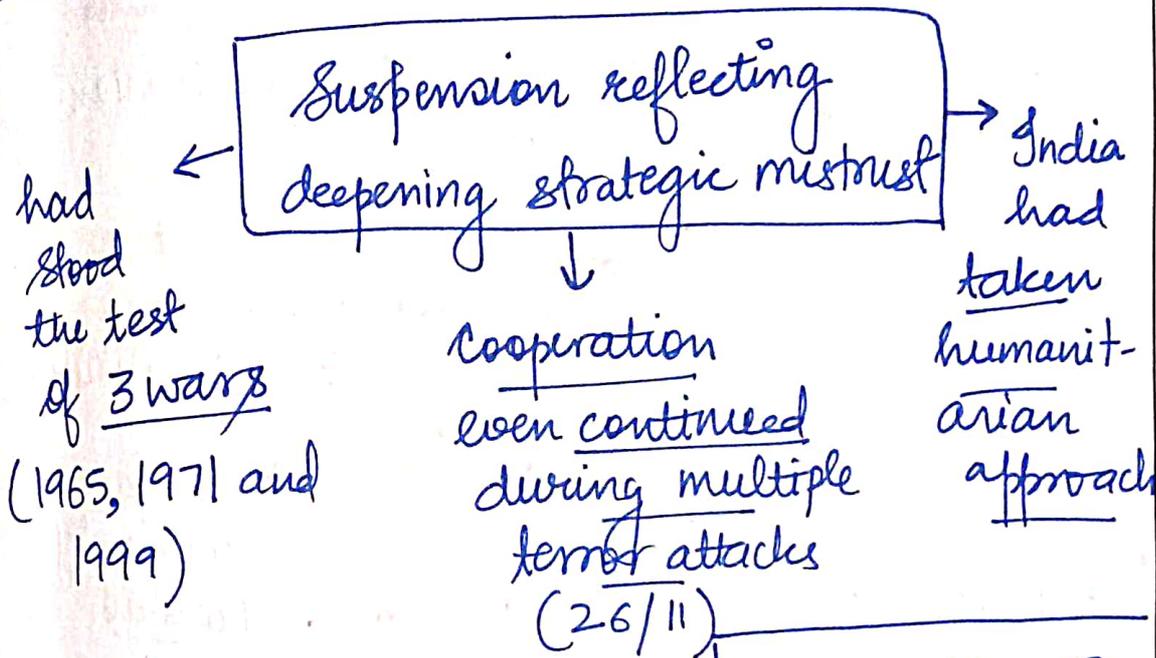
(3.) Labour issues eg) Qirmitiya system
in West Asia.

(4.) Occasional contact as against continued
relationship.

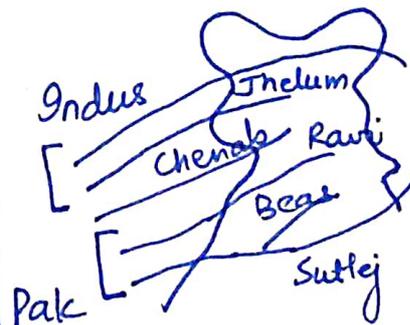
Four channels of diaspora engagement
- Prospective, Absence, Return and Technical must
be valued and strategic engagement be ensured

The suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) reflects deepening strategic mistrust between India and Pakistan. Examine the diplomatic and security implications of this move and analyse the structural limitations of the IWT that have hindered bilateral cooperation.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

India has put in abeyance the IWT in response to the barbaric Pahalgam attack on 22nd April 2025.



Diplomatic and Security implications of this move



Indus Water system

Diplomatic

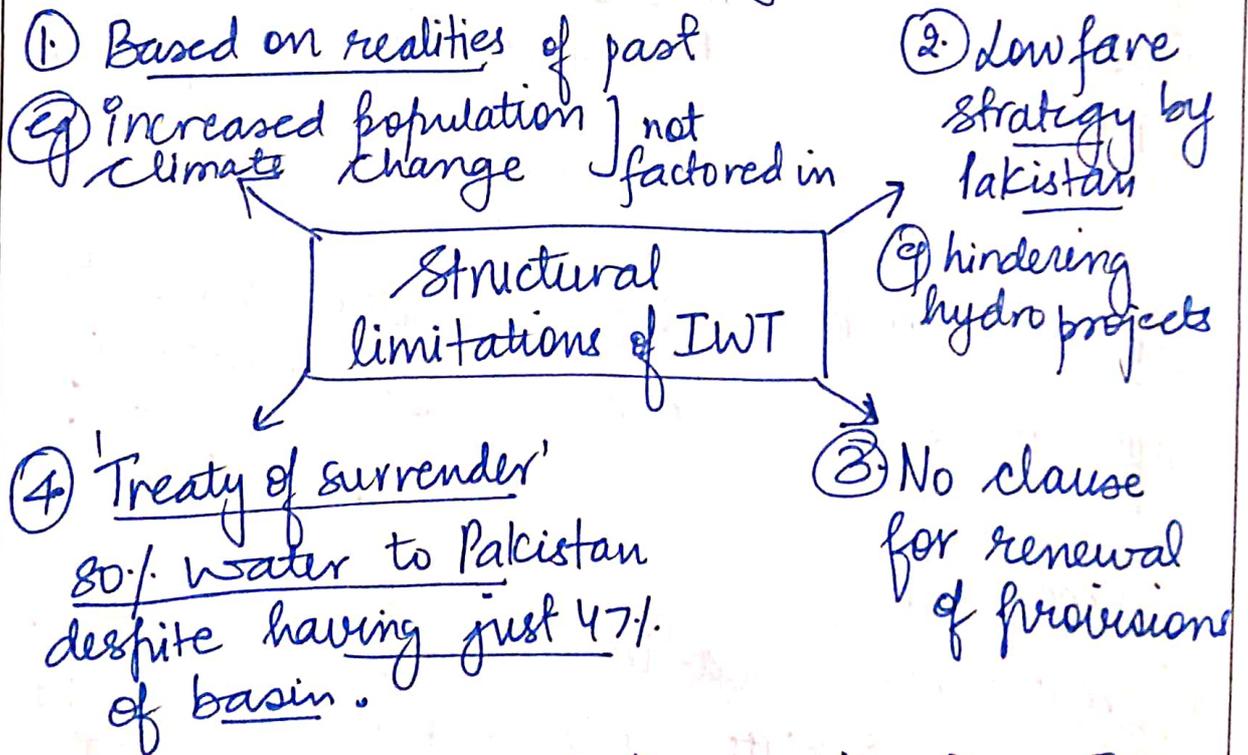
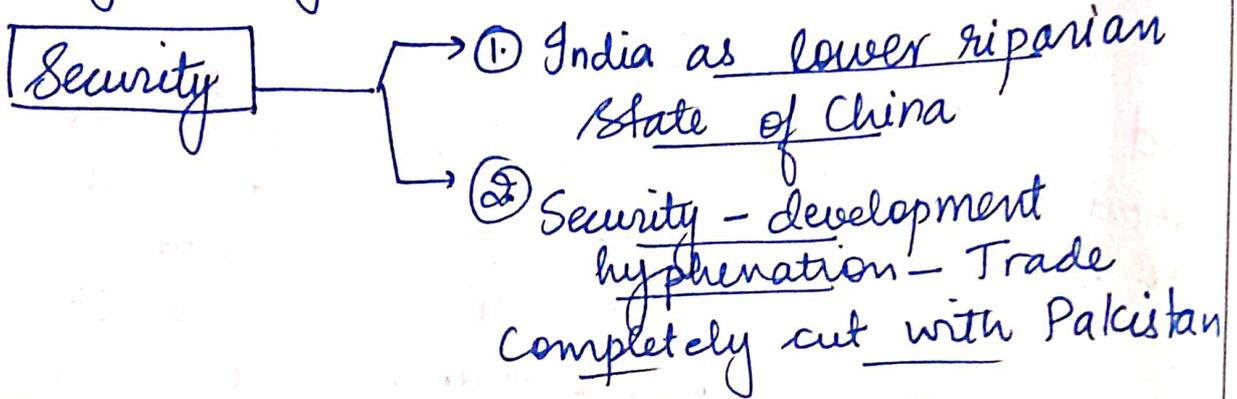
(1) Creates new red-lines and strengthens the belief 'water and blood can't flow together'

(2) Diplomatic isolation of Pakistan by cutting water supplies.

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(3) Unilateral action may set dangerous precedents among neighbours
 eg India - China, India - Nepal, India - Bangladesh

(4) Pakistan may internationalise the issue by taking matter to ICJ under Vienna Convention



India needs to use its strategic autonomy and improve infrastructural tactics to efficiently utilise water of Indus River system

Candidates write on
Intro 4.
Body
Conc.
Total

Candidates must not write on this margin

"The Indian Ocean is evolving as a critical geostrategic theatre, yet regional maritime security cooperation remains fragmented." In this context, evaluate the potential of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in fostering a collective maritime security architecture in the Indian Ocean region. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Indian Ocean is evolving as a new great game theatre due to involvement of various powers looking to secure their interests:



Potential of Indian Ocean Rim Association in fostering maritime security

- ① Collaboration of like minded nations

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who propose Free, Open and Inclusive Indian Ocean

② India as first Responder in times of crises (eg) operation samudra setu.

③ HADR responsibilities to ensure safer world for all.

④ Project Mausam for cultural connect with Indian Ocean littoral states

⑤ SAGAR strategy - Security And Growth for all in the region.

① Influence of China

(eg) String of pearl strategy

Some challenges

② Conflicts among states

(eg) Mauritius - UK on Chagos

③ Non-Traditional threats

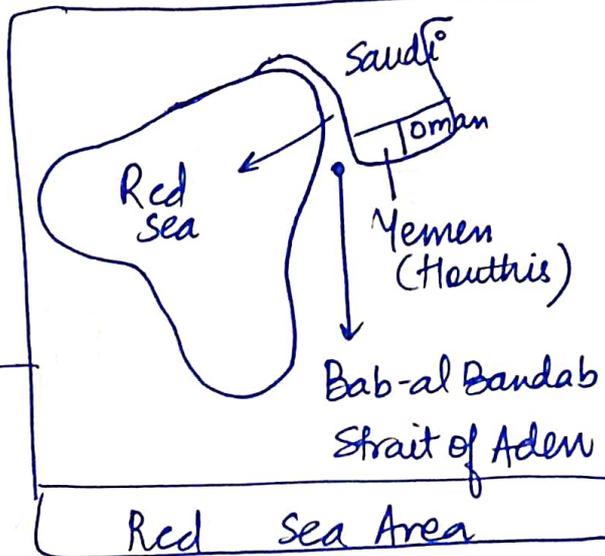
→ drug trafficking
piracy issues

Indian ocean is a region where India asserts, China eyes and U.S. intervenes. Yet IORA has the capacity to promote its use for economic and geo-political gains in a responsible manner

5. The Red Sea holds strategic importance in global maritime trade and geopolitics. Analyse the impact of the ongoing Red Sea crisis on regional stability and the global supply chain.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

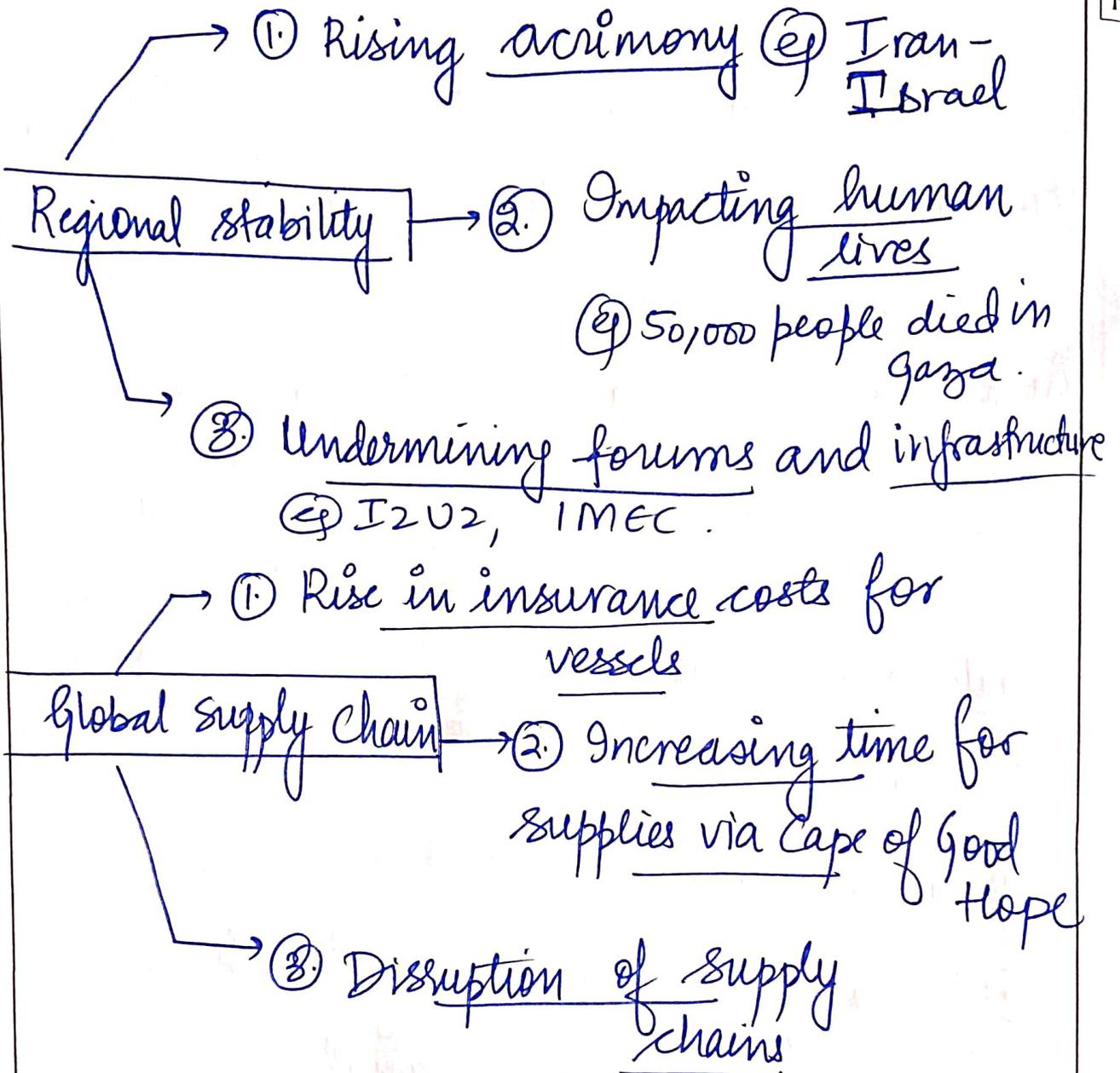
Red Sea region has been under turmoil in recent times due to expansion of conflict in Middle East via Iran's proxies.



Strategic importance of Red sea in global maritime trade and geopolitics

- ① Place of energy security - About 10% trade via Suez canal.
- ② Hosts various choke points - Gulf of Aden, Bab-al-Mandab etc.
- ③ Regional conflicts and uncertainty
- ④ Iran via Houthis, Israel-Gaza war

Impact of ongoing conflict on :

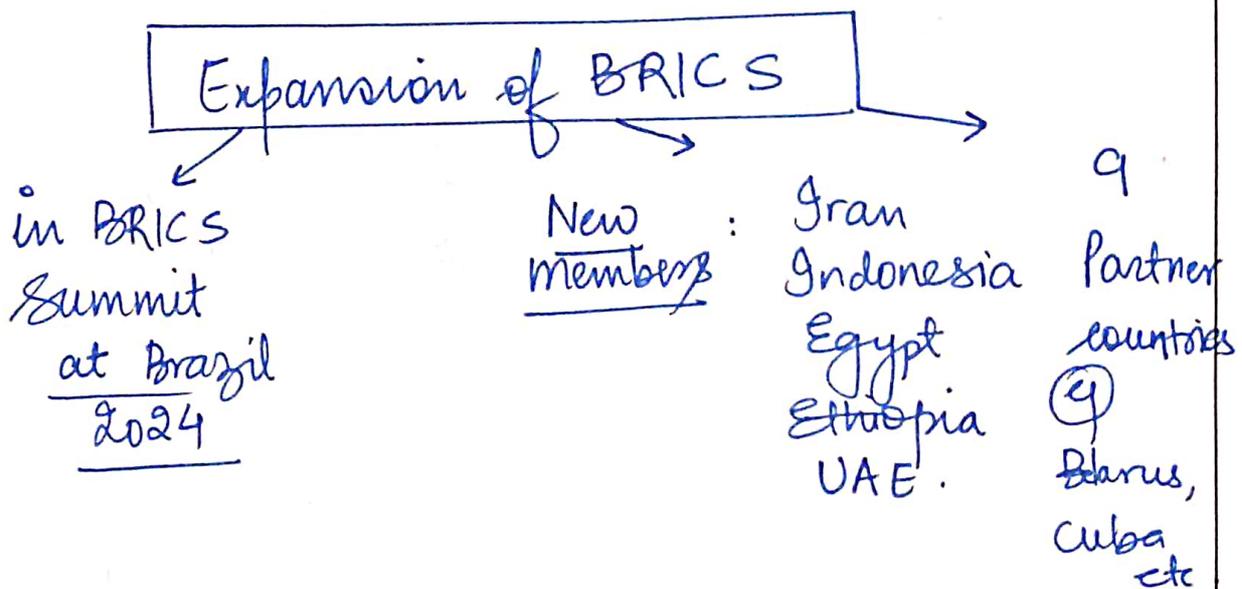


Promotion of regional stability lies at the heart of return to 'Samvaad' and 'Sahyog' as highlighted by Honorable PM Modi

6.

The expansion of BRICS has been projected as a step towards greater representation for the Global South. Critically examine this claim in the context of growing concerns about China's strategic dominance within the grouping. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

BRICS is a grouping of emerging market economies established in 2007 to cooperate on multiple sectors ranging from economy, political, climate change etc.



Expansion of BRICS - a step towards greater representation for Global South

- (1) Confluence of different regions from Latin America to West Asia, Africa and Europe
- (2) Voice of global South - strengthens

demand for multilateral reforms

eg) WTO, UN etc.

(3) Energy cooperation in times of
weaponisation of oil.

eg) Inclusion of Iran, UAE etc.

(4) Working on global commons

eg) HADR, Climate Change etc.

(5) Move towards multi-polarity

where dominance of G7 countries is avoided.

However, Prof Happpymon Jacob says -

'Expansion of BRICS has undermined
whatever ^{little} collaboration was achieved
before.'

Challenges of expanded BRICS due to China's dominance

(1) Internal contradictions between
members in terms of ideologies,

Intro :
Body :
Conc. :
Total :

political systems etc.

(2) India - democracy, China - Russia - authoritarian regimes etc

(2.) China's expansionist tendencies wrt.

India (3) Salami slicing wrt India
Debt-trap diplomacy wrt African nations.

(3.) China - Russian - Iran axis

growing amid American isolationism

(4.) Disparity between economic powers
vis-a-vis China.

China → \$19 trillion economy
India → \$4 trillion

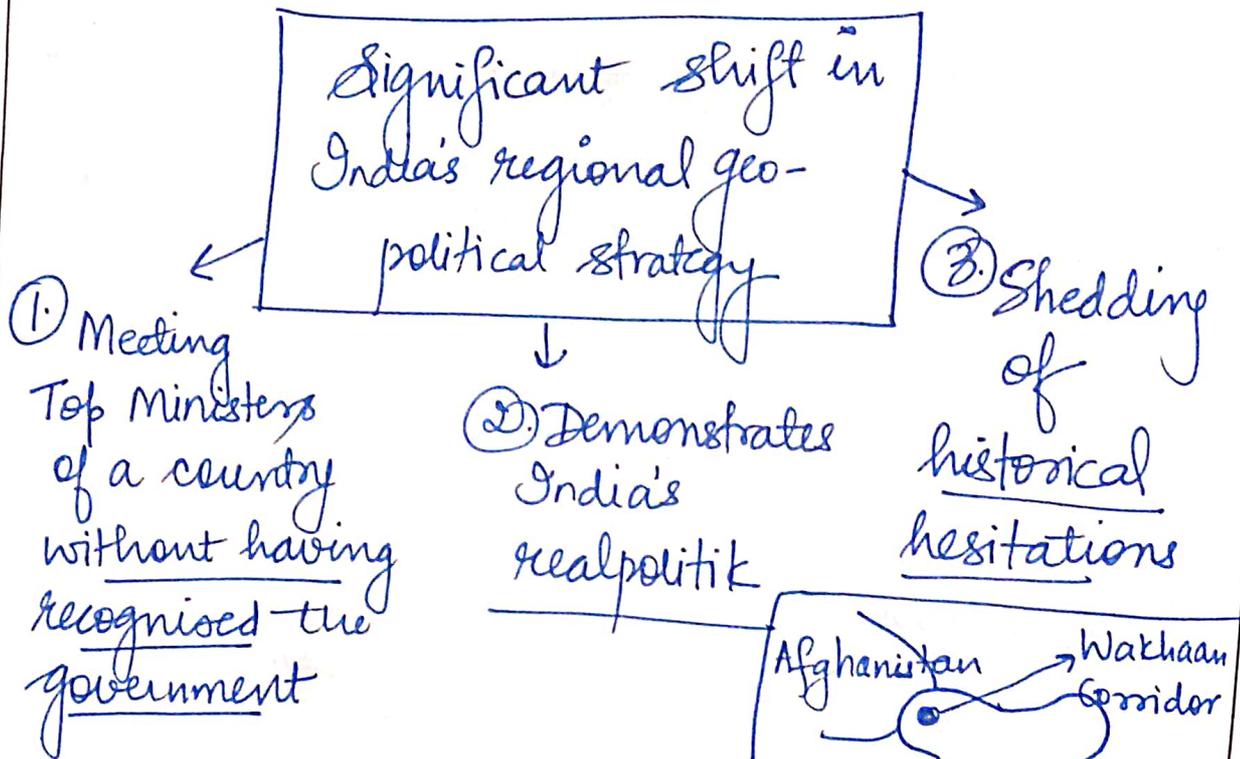
(5.) Ambitions of China for a bipolar world
disregards its role as collaborator for
Global South.

India needs to augment its
diplomatic clout by forging convergences
with other members of BRICS and
managing divergences with China through
strategic autonomy.

7. 'India's recent diplomatic outreach to the Taliban government in Afghanistan marks a significant shift in its regional geopolitical strategy'. Examine the rationale behind this shift and the strategic risks and opportunities it presents for India.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

India's Foreign Secretary recently met the Foreign Minister of Taliban government to collaborate on multiple sectors of regional importance.



Rationale behind India's shift w.r.t. Taliban

① Countering China's influence which has been increasing its economic

and political footprints in our neighbourhood.

(2) Policy of realism and shedding
hesitations of moral constraints.

(3) Safeguarding India's investments in
Afghanistan.

eg Salma Dam, Zahedan-Delaram road
etc

(4) Economic ambitions of India to
have relations with Central Asian countries
by-passing Pakistan.

(5) Decreasing/weakening strategic depth of
Pakistan which uses Afghanistan to
attack India.

Strategic risks and opportunities associated
with India's shift

Risks	Opportunities
① May decrease India's credibility as a responsible	① Revival of trade ties with Afghanistan.

democratic nation

② May not have equitable response from Taliban.

② Cultural diplomacy may be strengthened
② Afghan students in India

③ May isolate India in its own neighbourhood.

③ India may pursue Taliban for inclusive government

④ Connectivity is still a challenge for substantial trade gains.

④ Decreasing support for Pakistan

⑤ Afghanistan's role in golden crescent further risks India's security

⑤ Countering China's increasing ambitions

India needs 'strategic balancing' of its ties with Taliban and promote itself as a responsible and credible player in South Asian geopolitics

8.

The ongoing tensions between Iran and Israel present a foreign policy dilemma for India, given its strategic ties with both. Analyse the challenges this conflict poses and suggest how India can balance its interests amid rising instability in the region?

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Israel launched Operation Rising Lion against Iran to dismantle its nuclear facilities and prevent latter from attaining nuclear weapons.



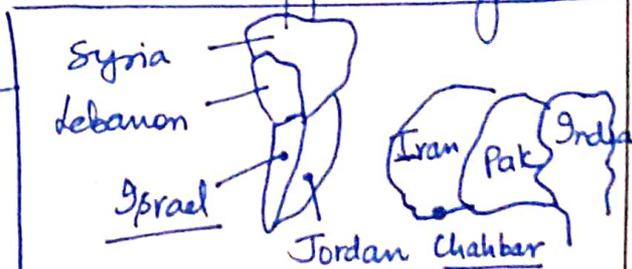
Ties with Iran

- ① Energy security
- ② Countering Pakistan
- ③ Civilizational ties

Ties with Israel

- ① Space and R&D - Agriculture
- ② Defence - Missiles
- ③ Support at forums

Challenges posed by the conflict



① Expansion of conflict in Middle East

threatens economic stability of India

(e) India is 3rd largest importer of crude oil

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with > 80% import dependency.

- ② Infrastructural projects may be delayed @ IMEC corridor
- ③ Requirement of strategic balancing as both countries hold significant position for India.
Israel → Kamikhaze drones
Iran → INSTC corridor
- ④ Role of China which has recently brokered an Iran-Saudi deal
- ⑤ Re-emergence of Pakistan as important player. (eg) allegations of use of its bases by USA to attack Iran.
- ⑥ Threat to groupings like I2U2 - Middle East in chaos
 Measures needed by India to balance strategic interests
- ① Support to diplomacy to resolve conflict - India can offer to act as mediator.

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Body :

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Total :

(3.) Diversifying energy security and building oil reserves. @ Vishakhapatnam.

(3.) UN-led monitoring of nuclear infrastruc-
ture - India must stress on global mechanisms rather than individual actions

(4.) Collaborating with like minded nations

@ Brazil, South Africa etc. to call for immediate ceasefire and return to dialogue and deliberation

(5.) Securing national interests

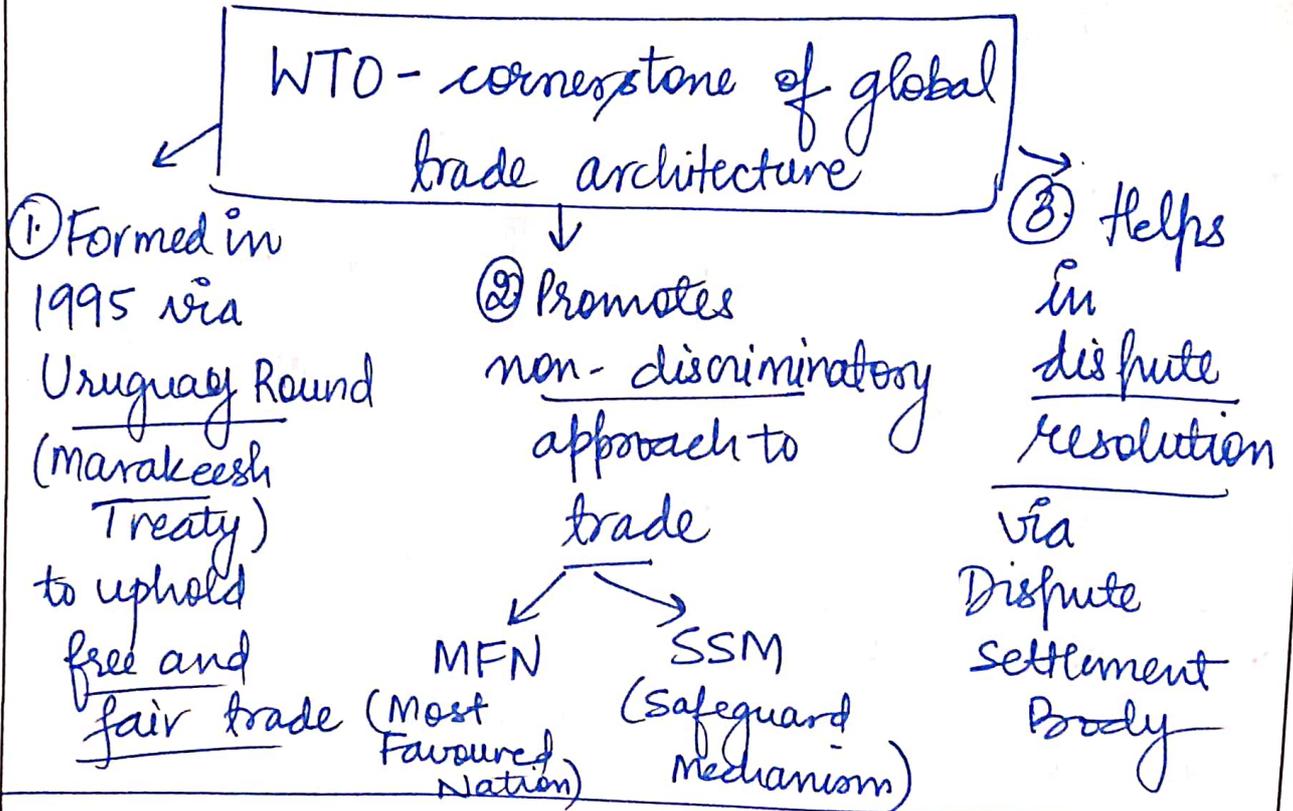
@ protection of infrastructural projects, evacuation of Indian nationals (Operation Sindhu) etc.

Although world is headed for a poorer, meaner and smaller place, yet India should leverage its ties with both nations to call for peace and security guarantees based on real terms

9. Despite being a cornerstone of the global trade architecture, the World Trade Organization (WTO) is facing a crisis of relevance. Examine the major challenges undermining the WTO's effectiveness and suggest measures for its revival in a multipolar world.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

The world's organisations are facing crises of confidence in absence of reforms — PM Modi



Challenges undermining WTO's effectiveness

(1) Rise of multilateralism with emergence of parallel organisations.
 eg NDB, AIIB, FTAs etc

(2.) Disputes and deadlocks overwhelming its working.

eg) Non-appointment of members to its Appellate Body.

(3.) Discriminatory approach against developing countries

eg) Vaccine patent waiver issue, fishing subsidy issue.

(4.) Non-resolution of concerns of public importance eg) public stockholding limits

(5.) Violation of principles of WTO by global ~~sto~~ creators themselves
eg) Trump 2.0 administration's' trade war

(*) Measures needed for WTO revival in multi polar world

(1.) Revival of Dispute Settlement Mechanism by effective implementation of its powers

- (2.) Resolution of concerns of Global South
(eg) patent waiver, permanent solution
to stockholding limits.
- (3.) Effective trade policy reviews of
nations like China accused of trade
and currency manipulation
- (4.) Strengthening neo-liberal economic
order. via punishments for
violators.
- (5.) Special safeguards for low income
countries
(eg) SIDS, Pacific islands etc

Respect for sovereignty and
international global order are the hall
marks of WTO which must be
strengthened for a more secured
future of the world.

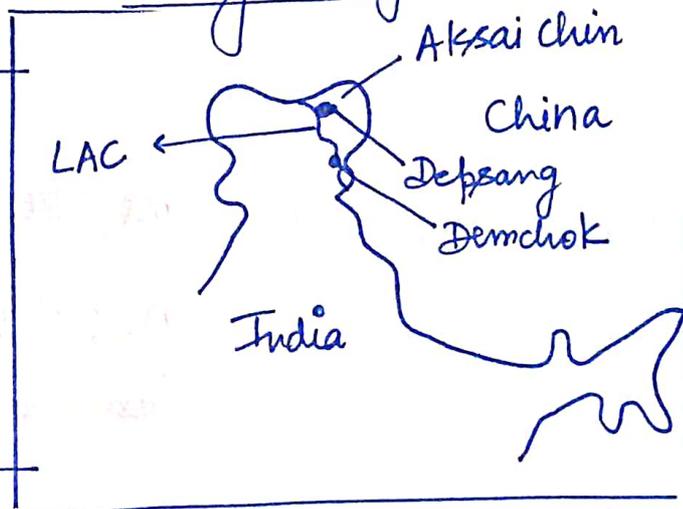
10. India-China relations are evolving from confrontation to cautious diplomacy. In this context, discuss the recent efforts made to stabilise the relationship and identify the structural challenges that continue to impede complete normalisation.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

India - China border situation at present is stable but not normal and continues to be sensitive'

— Indian Army Chief.

Recent efforts made by India - china to stabilise the relationship



- (1) Disengagement at 2 patrolling points
→ Demchok and Depsang in the Western sectors
- (2) Talks of revival of Mansarovar yatra
- (3) To have direct flights between nations
- (4) To allow visas to journalists on both sides.

(5) Meeting of State heads at sidelines of BRICS Summit @ Kazan, Russia in 2024.

These efforts show India is moving from -China confrontation to cautious diplomacy.

Structural challenges that impede complete normalisation in India-China ties

- (1) China's expansionist ambitions via Salami Slicing
 @ in Galwan, Arunachal Pradesh etc
- (2) China's hybrid-warfare via 3-warfare strategy - legal, media and psychological
- (3) Continued non-demarcation of border and LAC

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- creating perception issues and trust deficit.

(4) Rise of economic clout of both nations

where China wants unipolar Asia but India wants bipolar Asia and unipolar South Asia (Brahma Chellany)

(5) China's I2 diplomacy through its all-weather ally Pakistan

↳ Incursion and Infiltration

(6) Pincer strategy to box-up India
↳ string of Pearls, Gwadar port etc

In relation with China, India must always follow the amended Reagon doctrine of 'Verify but don't trust' and simultaneously keep diplomatic channels open for resolving disputes