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22 JUN 2025

NEXT IAS

GRADED ASSESSMENT TEST 2025

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : M25GAT01

TEST NO. : 01

Name of Candidate: KIRAN. KAMATE

Roll No.: CAVA25MCA1011 Start Time 11:00 AM End Time 1:35 PM

Date of Examination: 22.06.2025 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:

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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

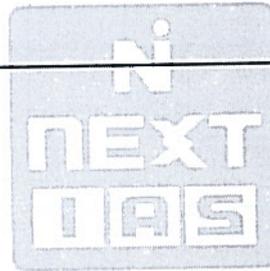
* Subject to change without prior notice.

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

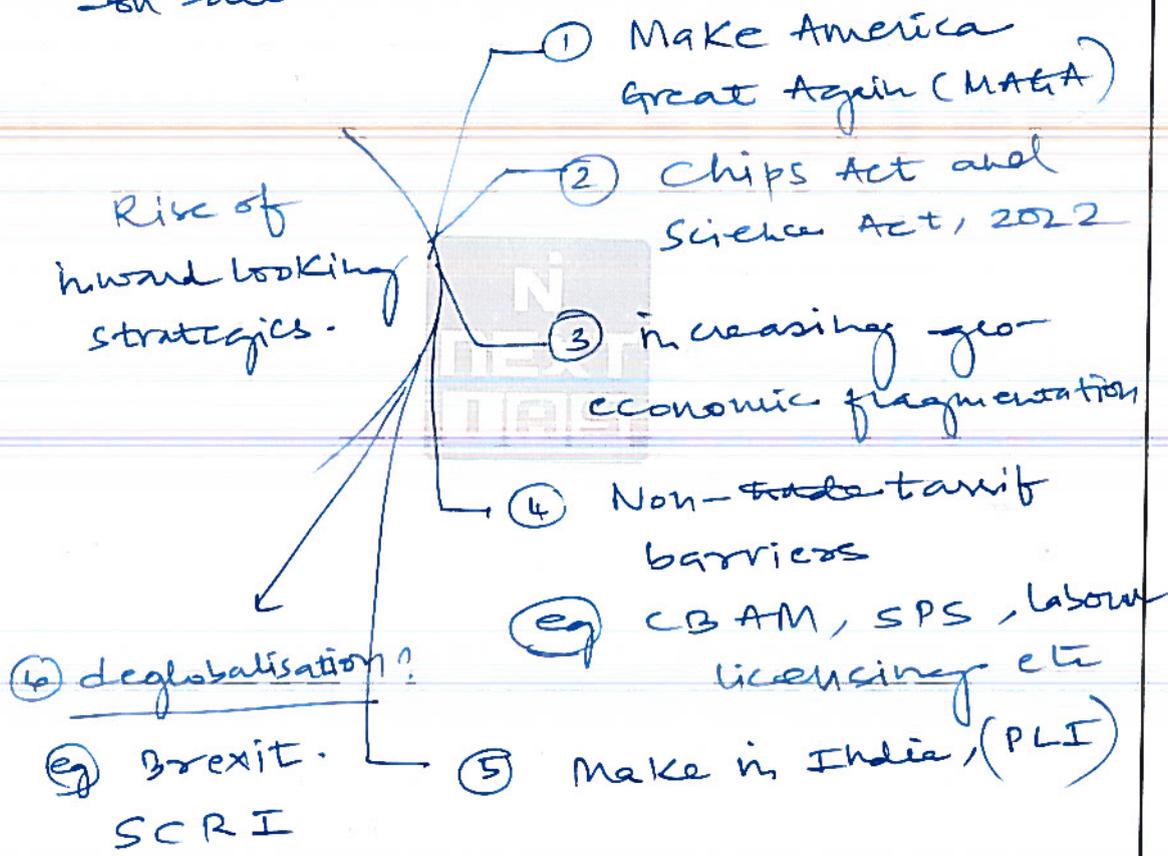


IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

1. 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's tariff tantrums - adds a leaf to his transactional diplomacy with a base line tariffs of 10% on all.



Geopolitical implications

- 1) fragmented world order (w.o)
- 2) rise of w.o marked by self help
⇒ EAM Jaishankar.
- 3) increasing trust deficit

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4) Trade wars

(eg) China vs USA

→ Geoeconomic implications

1) supply chain breakdown
 ⇒ increased prices of goods.

2) operational efficiency ↓↓

3) Inflation (eg) oil, food

4) deglobalisation
 ⇒ inward looking strategies

5) minilateralism

- offshoring
- reshoring
- friendshoring.

6) volume of global trade ↓↓
 as highlighted by Eco. survey.

Thus, developing countries should converge along shared interests and counter the effects of growing inward strategies to meet their development needs efficiently.

2. 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

According to Standing Comm.
Report on External Affairs, India's
Diaspora stands at 35.42 million.

Enhancing India's global profile
and socio-economic contribution

- 1) Remittances - 118 mn (2024-25)
- 2) bringing back social/economic capital in the form of connections, skills.
- 3) highest tax payers in US - 300 bn\$
- 4) Indian students - added revenue of 43 bn\$ (2024-25)
- 5) cultural ambassadors (PM Modi)
⇒ soft power ↑↑
- 6) act as a pressure group
(eg) 123 Agreement (2008)
- 7) CEO of Big Tech
Sunder Pichai, Satya Nadella
- 8) 75 unicorns, 60% hotel ownerships,
16 of Fortune 500 companies

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Challenges related to them

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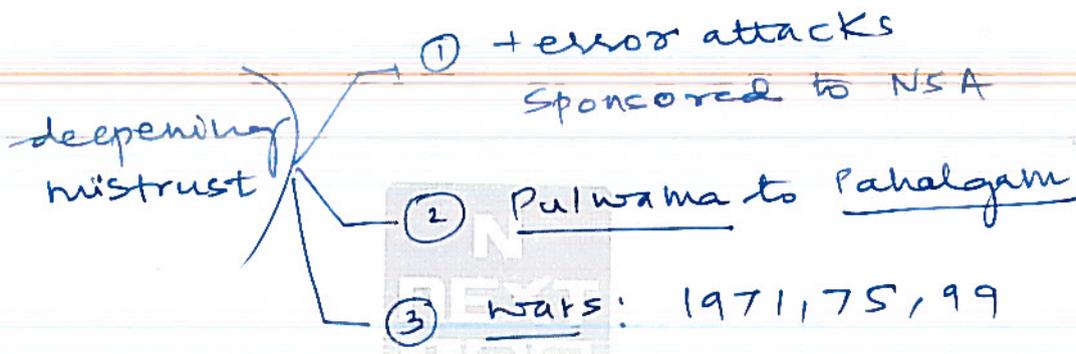
- 1) increasing reverse migration
⇒ report highlighted 4.7 2019-24
5.9 million returned
- 2) Trump's restriction on H1B visas
⇒ affects India's IT professionals
- 3) student violence
— 405+ students killed in 5 years
- 4) recruitment malpractices.
(eg) Cyberbullying / arrest
⇒ Laos and Thailand
- 5) integration into mainstream
economy in India
⇒ only ~~some~~ Kerala has initiatives
- 6) jailed Indians in Foreign land

A unified, carefully crafted
policy document is the need of the
hour — standing comm. Report.

They are truly Rashtrdoot
as H1B PM calls them acting as
living bridge.

3. 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

As a non-kinetic response against the backdrop of PAFKALGAN attack, India kept the Indus water treaty at Abeyance.



Diplomatic implications	Security implications
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) schyphenation of Indo-PaK 2) reduce India's credibility as responsible player 3) Invoke <u>Vienna Convention of Treaty of Laws</u>. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) India may set bad precedent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eg) China controls Brahmaputra. 2) India's capacity limited of IMAF of water holding 3) <u>biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eg) Indus river dolphins.

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Structural limitations of IWT

- 1) 80% to Pakistan: Indus, Chenab, Jhelum
- 2) 20% to India: Beas, Ravi, Sutlej
- 3) India cannot carry out consumptive usage of western rivers
⇒ only run-of-river project
- 4) Tiered dispute settlement
⇒ But Pakistan doesn't follow the neutral experts' pronouncement
- 5) recent challenges of present world like population bulge and climate crisis not accounted

Thus, there is a need to relook at the IWT (standing comm in 2016) as had highlighted.

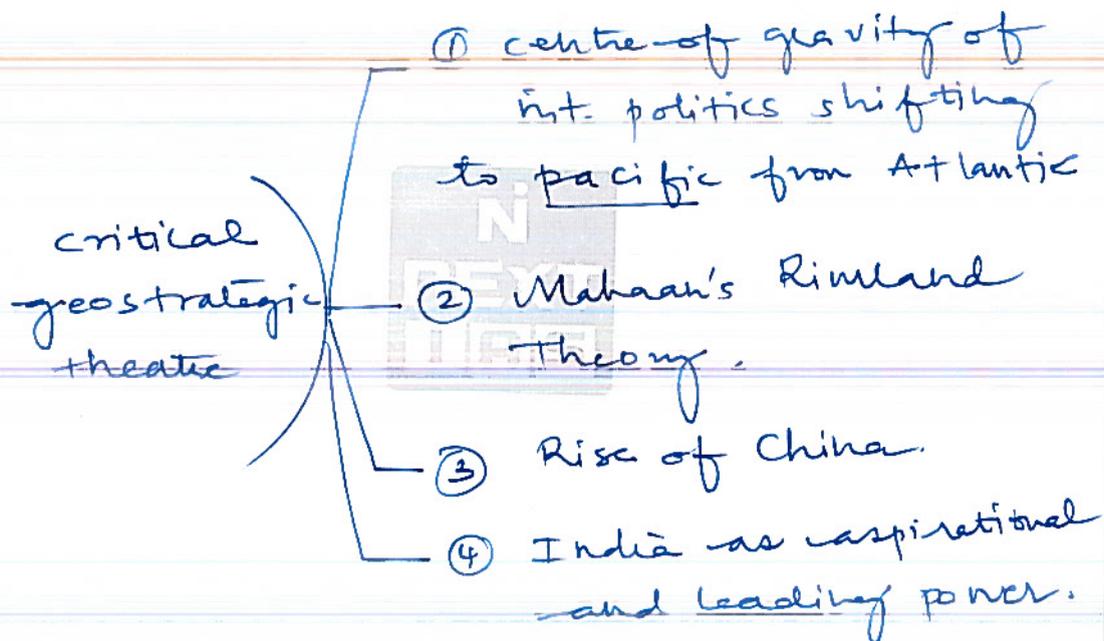
The IWT was given as prize for peace by Nehru in 1960. But now "Blood and water cannot flow together" (PM). From Pulwama to Pahalgam India's strategy has changed.

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4. "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

IORA was formed in 1997, post the historic visit by Nelson Mandela in 1995, comprising 23 members and 12 partner countries.



Yet, regional maritime sec. coop. remains fragmented.

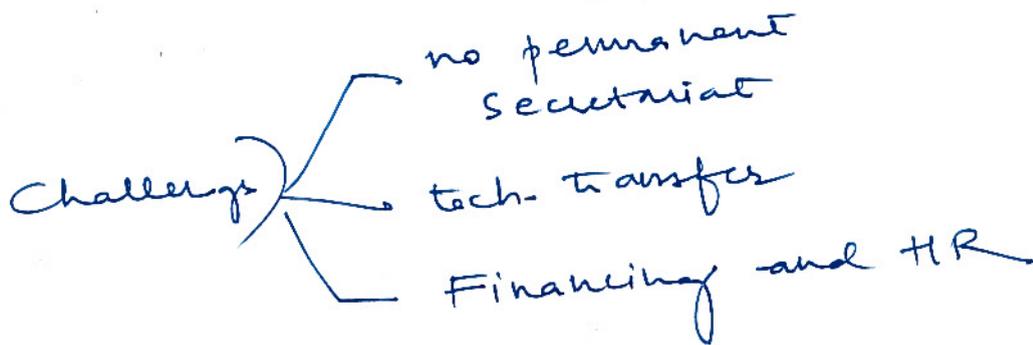
- 1) Lack of unifying force
eg BIMSTEC = nonstarter
STARC: failure.
- 2) Chinese dominance in the region
String of Pearls.
- 3) Redsea crisis.
- 4) Pirates of horn of Africa

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Potential of IOR A

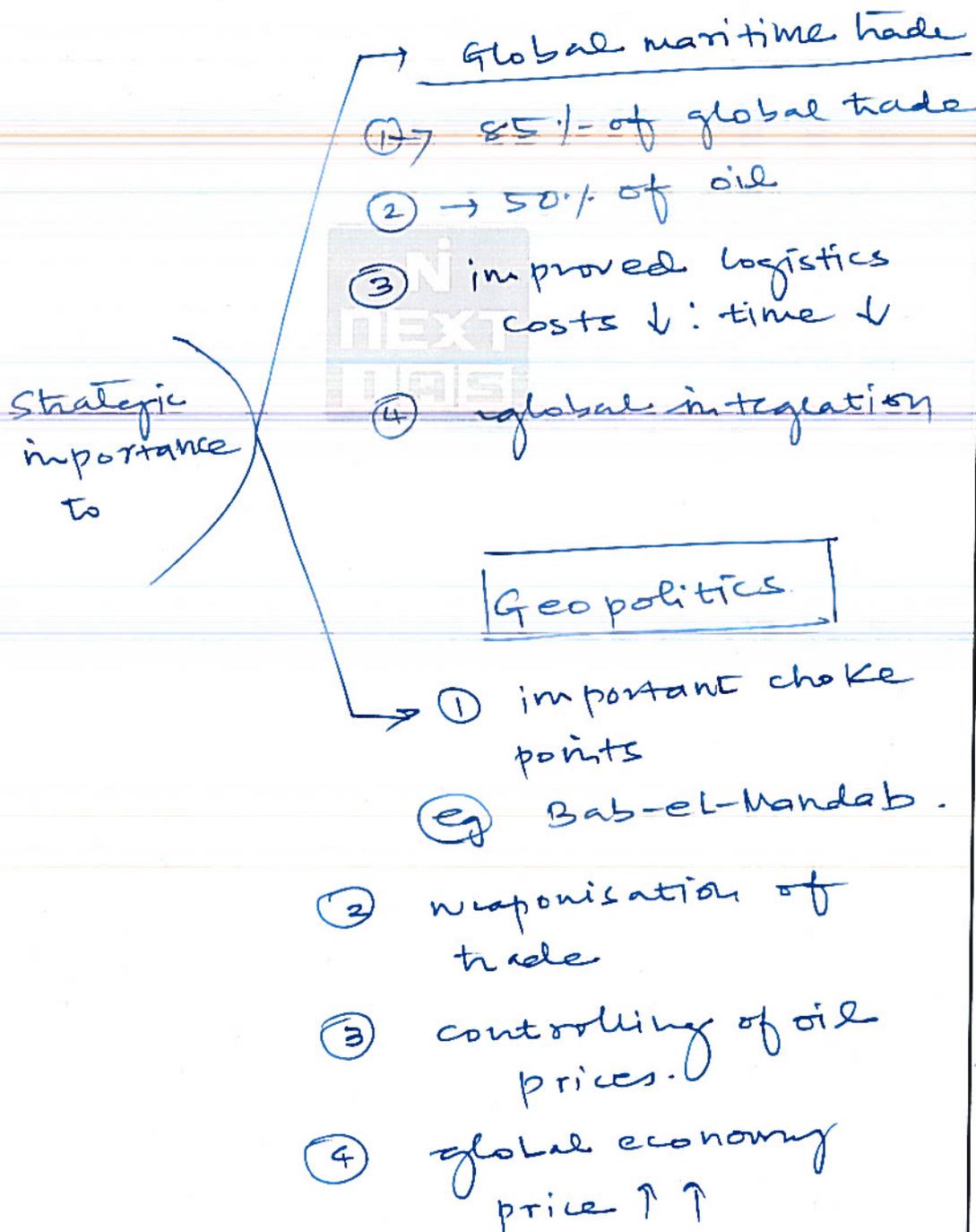
- 1) 23 + 12 \Rightarrow 35 member states + partners
- 2) India's rise as net security provider in the region
 (eg) Vaccine Mithi, HADR
- 3) SAGAR and MAHASAGAR initiatives.
- 4) collective efforts for broader and similar interests
- 5) increasing investment by countries of Africa & Asia
 (eg) India, Bangladesh



IORA is the key for security and growth for all in the region

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 located between Africa and Asia is a bridge to the world facilitating people, trade, resources and opportunities.



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Impact of Red Sea Crisis

Regional stability

① Axis of Resistance

Hizbollah
Hamas } control the sea.
Houthis.

② escalation of wars.

eg UK, US launching their operations to counter crisis

③ fuel the conflict in a already conflict-ridden West Asia.

④ ripple affect of war to Asia & Africa.

Global supply chain

① fragmented supply chain

② increased costs ↑

③ supply chain diplomacy ↑↑

④ increased global prices ↑

⑤ trade wars ↑

eg China-US

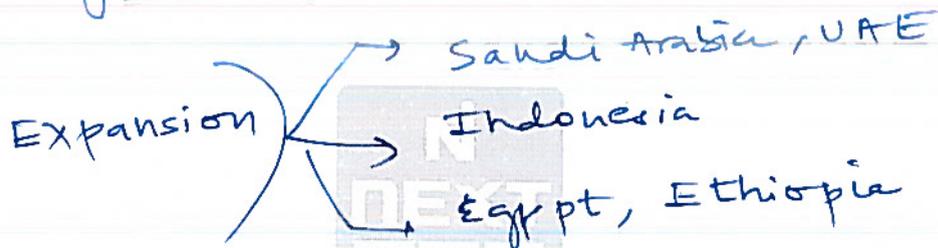
⑥ inward looking economic policies

eg Eco. survey highlight.

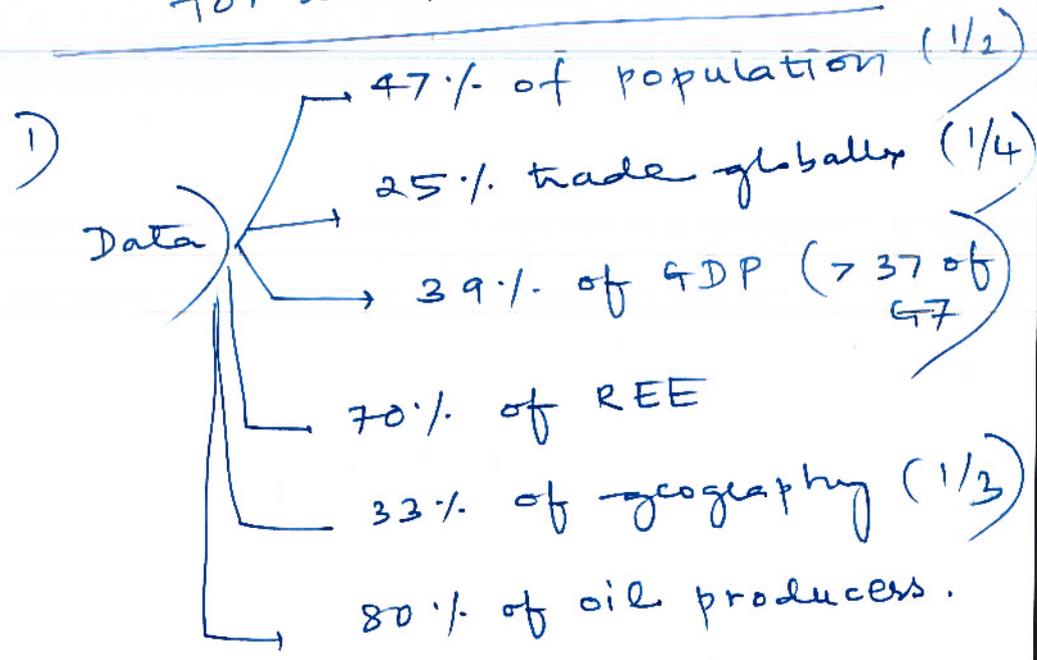
As Parag Khanna in connectography writes future of geopolitics will be driven by connectivity and not borders. Red sea crisis thus, is echoing a similar light-

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

For the first time, the newly expanded BIMSTEC met at summit level in KAZAN, Russia marking a new lease of multilateralism in an era of breakdown of western global governance.



A step towards greater representation for the Global South



- 2) voice of the global south
- 3) rise of the east, fall of the west
⇒ FAREED ZAKARIA
- 4) countries with diverse ideas,
ethnicity, geographics.
⇒ but common link: postcolonial
states.
- 5) NDB 6) CPI over
SWIFT

China's dominance within the
grouping and its concerns.

- 1) China is the largest economy
in the region.
- 2) Chinese growing assertiveness
in the region and the world
eg South China sea crisis
- 3) China's chequebook / debt trap
diplomacy via BRI
- 4) increasing dependency of
African countries on China
eg loans and infra.
- 5) Russia-China Nexus ↑↑
- dominance over India
and others.

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Wayforward

- 1) establishing it as an equal partnership.
- 2) aiming broader goals of reforming multilateralism over individual priorities.
- 3) 'no country is ~~the~~ bigger than the institution' — PM Modi
- 4) BRICS should emerge as a formidable political voice — Happymon Jacob
- 5) C. Raju Mohan — says 'expanded BRICS loses its new found cohesion'
 ⇒ ensure that expansion is strength and not recipe for dominance.

BRICS — Bridging connectivity, Revitalising trade, Innovating innovation,
Connecting continents for Sustainable solutions
 — should be the guiding principle

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

Foreign secretary Vikram Misri held talks with his Afghan counterpart recently marking a shift in India-Afghanistan engagement - post the Taliban takeover in 2021.

Rationale behind this shift

- 1) geopolitical pragmatism
 ⇒ post-2014, as Jaishankar (CEA) writes in India way
- 2) Afghanistan is part of India's neighbourhood arc → RAJEEV SIKRI
 ⇒ stable neighbourhood is sine-quo-nom.
- 3) Pakistan's strategy of strategic depth doctrine
 ⇒ utilising Taliban for terror
- 4) growing Pakistan, China, & Afghanistan nexus.
 ⇒ CPEC via Afghan.

5) Aryabhatta's Mandala Siddhant

⇒ Neighbour's neighbour is an
friend (Axi-Mitri)

6) continuation along the indirect
diplomacy

eg) AFD during Afghanistan ER

Opportunities to India

1) Afghanistan is key to India's
access to central Asia

2) secure India's infra projects in
the past

eg) Zorani Durrani and Durrani
Highway

3) counter Chinese influence
in the region.

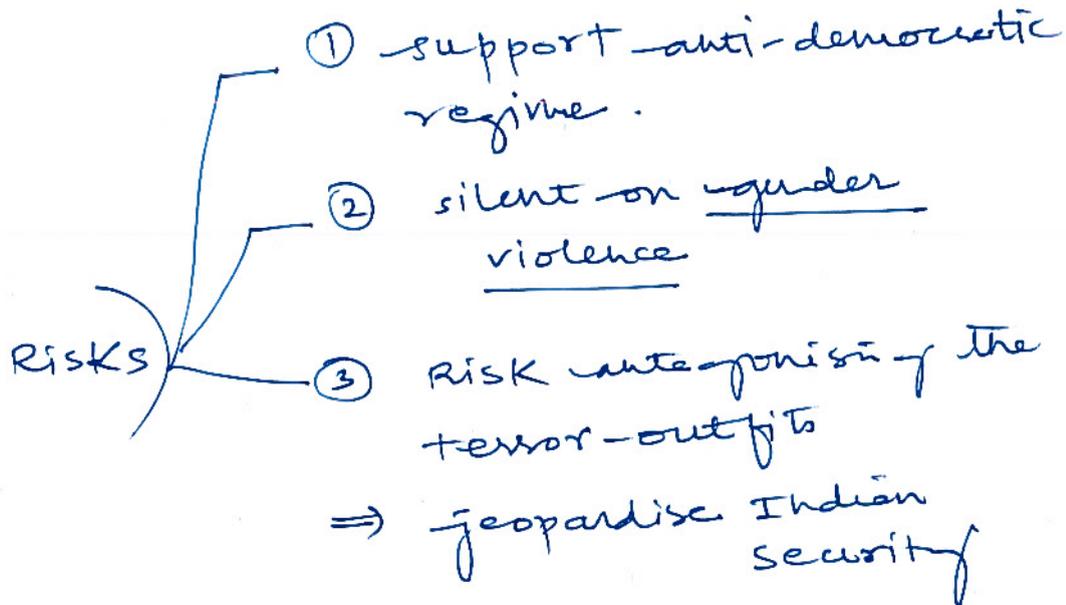
4) delink Pakistan and Afghanistan
⇒ securing national security

5) trade
Afghanistan is home critical
minerals and crops.

6) Key to Reviving SAARC and
an integrated South Asia

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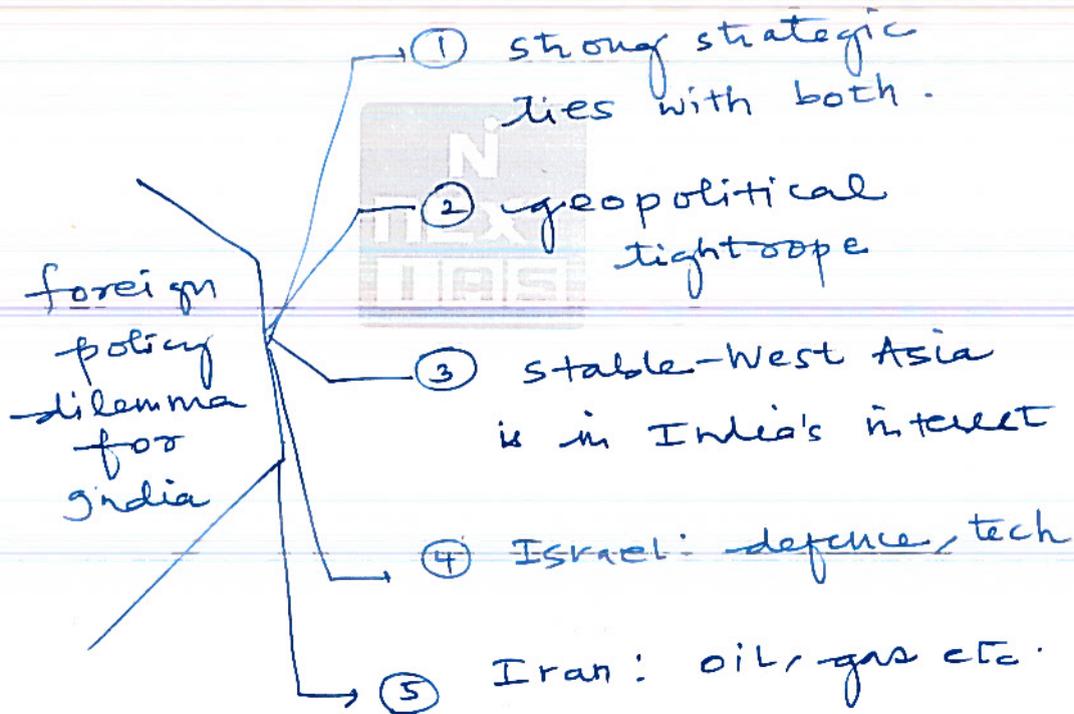
“ In International politics, there are no permanent friends or enemies, only permanent interests ”
— Lord Palmerston

Therefore, India's active engagement with Afghanistan is part of India's assertion of strategic autonomy and securing its interests in the region. — showing pragmatism over idealism.

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

The West Asian crisis looms large with a new conflict emerging after the Israel's pre-emptive strike against Iran on its nuclear facilities @ Natanzy, Fordow etc



Challenges this conflict poses

- ① India's increasing defence and technological ties with Israel
(eg) Barak missile .

- ② India's dependence on Iran
⇒ energy security.
- ③ 85% import dependent on oil
⇒ rising prices and inflation
domestically
- ④ India's diaspora in the region
⇒ threaten their lives.
- ⑤ India's investments
eg Chabahar / INSTC etc.
- ⑥ unstable West Asia
against India's interests
eg IMEC,
- ⑦ threat of regime change and
its control by external powers
⇒ destabilise India's relations
and democracy in general.

How India can balance its interests
amidst instability

- ① active engagement
Zorawat Daulat highlights
India's reluctance to engage directly
working only on the margins.

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Intro :

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② India's call for diplomatic talks b/n the region
 ⇒ PM Modi - "It is not an era of war - no solution on the battlefield"

③ engage with IAEA
 - balance Iran's interest of
 - civil nuclear facility
 - assuage fears of Israel

④ A renewed JCPOA
 - US-led action to revitalise talk for a favourable agreement

⑤ consensus among West Asian countries.

⇒ on the lines of Abraham Accords.

A stable, vibrant, prosperous is not only in India's interest but also for the world. As the world moves close to nuclear-brinkmanship it also time to relook NPT and NSG.

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

WTO emerged as pivot of rules based, inclusive world order in the backdrop of GATT in 1995, for facilitating global trade.

Crisis of Relevance

- ① Disfunctional dispute resolution mechanism.
- ② capture of appointments by USA
- ③ lack of harmonisation of codes.
- ④ IPR regime
- G-south have faced issues during COVID.
- ⑤ subsidies
- India's MCP is a bone of contention.
- ⑥ exploitation of exceptions
eg China as a "developing country"

Major Challenges

- 1) Reconciliation of developing and developed countries.
- 2) One-size-fits-all approach of WTO
 - ⇒ developing and LDC needs support to cater to large population
- 3) dysfunctional dispute resolution mechanism
 - ⇒ growing distrust and autoprotection
- 4) lack of credibility
 - ⇒ elite capture by few countries.
- 5) "WTO doesn't deflect the current geopolitical realities, it is still lurking the shadow of the past"
- 6) WTO needs to reform, else see itself become irrelevant
 - Jaichankar
- 7) Agreement on Agriculture (AoA)
 - ⇒ India's MSP

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Measures for Revival

- 1) Increase role / participation of Global south
- 2) immediate appoint the vacancies of Dispute Resolution
- 3) the arbitrary distinction of 3 boxes need changes
- 4) exceptions cannot be rules
→ China doesn't fit into developing country status anymore
- 5) MSP should be not included in its defⁿ of subsidies.

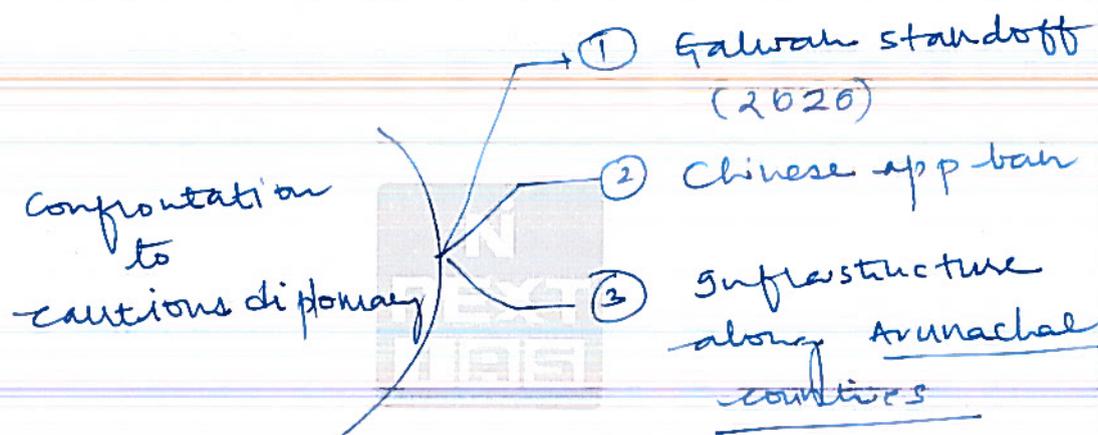
A reformed, renewed and revitalised WTO is a must in an era of deglobalisation threatening the global trade and engagement.

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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

2025 marked the 75 years of India - China relations which the Chinese president colloquially called as the Dragon - Elephant Tango.



Recent efforts to stabilise the relationship.

- ① Along the lines of Kazan summit @ BRICS Russia
 ⇒ de-escalation and dis-engagement along border (LAC)
- ② increased cooperation in multi lateral groupings
 (eg) SCO / BRICS.

- ③ cultural diplomacy
 (eg) recent International Buddhist summit held by India
- ④ 3 Mutuaks - EAM & Chinese scp.
 - Mutual Respect
 - Mutual understanding
 - Mutual Trust
- ⑤ enhanced bilateral trade ↑
- ⑥ Chinese investment in India's startups ↑↑

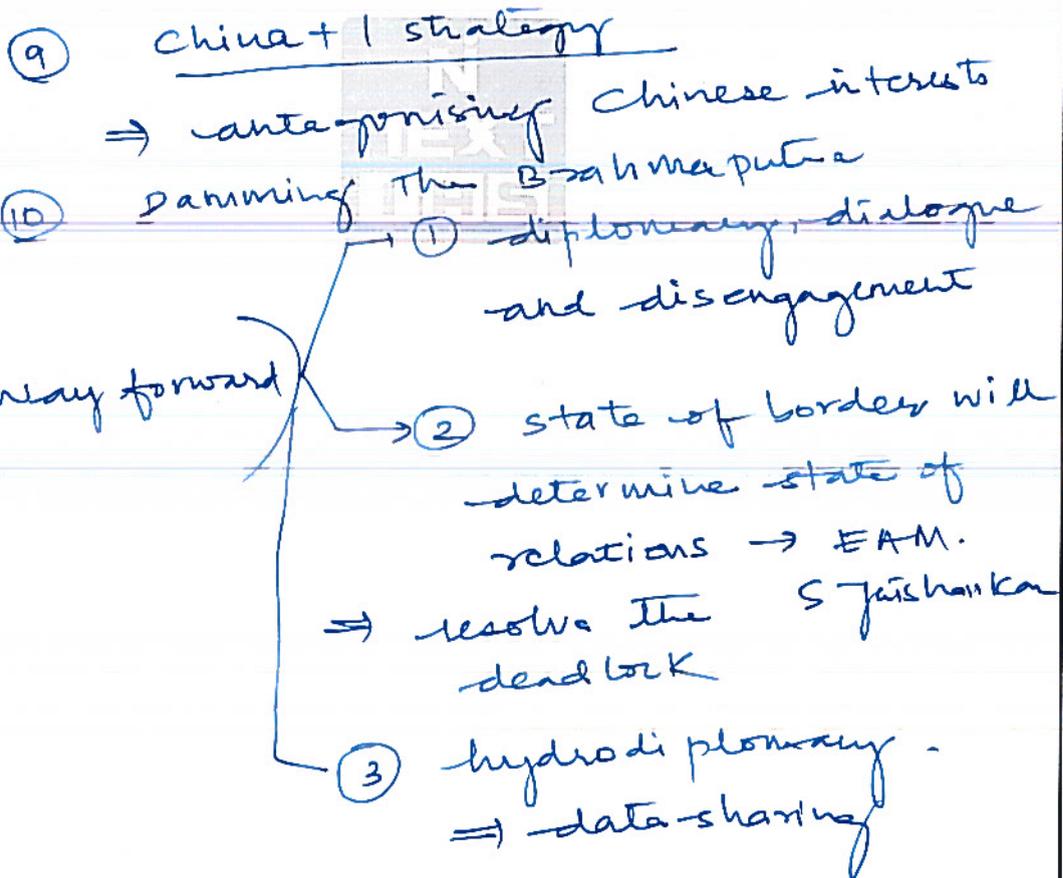
Structural challenges that continue to impede normalisation

- ① India's anti-china groupings.
 (eg) QUAD
- ② India's viewing of its Foreign policy through Chinese lens
 ⇒ Nirupama Rao
- ③ Chinese increasing footprint in the region.
 (eg) Hambantota port
- ④ Sagor Mantah - C. Raja Mohan
 ⇒ intersection of string of pearls and necklace of diamonds

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- ⑤ growing China - Pakistan axis
eg) Op. Sindoor
- ⑥ veto India's anti-terror legislative resolutions at the UN.
- ⑦ blockade to India's aspiration to permanent seat @ UNSC.
- ⑧ growing trade deficit
⇒ 85+ million dollars



China and India are the two heavy-weights of Not only Asia, but of the globe. Cooperation b/n the two is key for a reformed world order.

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3. Do not tear off any pages from your QCA Booklet, if you find any page missing do not fail to notify the supervisor/invigator.
4. Do not leave behind your QCA Booklet on your table unattended, it should be handed over to the invigilator after conclusion of the exam.

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2. Write your registration number and other particulars, in the space provided on the cover of QCA Booklet.
3. Write legibly and neatly. Do not write in bad/illegible handwritings.
4. For rough notes or calculation, the last two blank pages of this booklet should be used. The rough notes should be crossed through afterwards.
5. If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it or write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be evaluated.
6. Handover your QCA Booklet personally to the invigilator before leaving the examination hall.

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5. Candidates not using the QCA booklet must follow the sequence of the answer as per the question paper.
6. Please check the sequence of the answer and total number of pages in the scanned version. Make sure it is in consonance with the physical version of the same.