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RANK-5 (CSE 2018)

UPSC WOMEN'S TOPPER

GS MAINS Q&A 2018

**India's Relations with Major Powers
& International Organisations**



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GS SCORE

Test Code
18

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GS MAINS Q&A 2018

INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH MAJOR POWERS & INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Time Allowed: 3 Hr.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate

- ▶ There are 20 Questions.
- ▶ The paper contain two sections:
 - Section A: Questions 1-10 are of 10 Marks Each
 - Section B: Questions 11-20 are of 15 Mark Each
- ▶ All questions are compulsory.
- ▶ The number of marks carried by a question is indicated against it.
- ▶ Answer the questions in **SECTION A WITHIN 150** words each and **SECTION B WITHIN 250** words each. Contents of the answer is more important than its length.
- ▶ Answers must be written within the space provided.
- ▶ Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Q	Answer	Q	Answer
1		11	
2		12	
3		13	
4		14	
5		15	
6		16	
7		17	
8		18	
9		19	
10		20	

Date: 29 01 2018

30/1/2018

Candidate's Signature



Examiner's Signature

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Section A

Q1. Analyze the south-south cooperation strategy? Elaborate on major developments in achieving south-south cooperation globally in last 10 years? (10 Marks)

The strategy of South-South cooperation seeks to forge partnerships among nations of "other" or "southern" ^{"half"} hemisphere. Incidentally, most of

these are developing countries like India, Brazil etc or African nations reeling under malnutrition and inadequate infrastructure.

✓ 1) This involves cross border connectivity, sharing best practices, developing role model of cities and technology that is low cost (affordable) and suited to the indigenous culture.

2) South-South cooperation breaks the 'Dependency Development' that required European & American approaches.

But it has its own limitations like paucity of capital, poor infrastructure, low investment capacity, geopolitical conflicts etc.

✓ Remarks

Q2. India-Brazil relations haven't prospered despite sharing stage at large number of global bodies and issues. Analyze major reasons behind this and highlight potential areas of improving trade? (10 Marks)

Despite India & Brazil being flagbearers in South Asia and South America resp, they have not been able to mutually develop relations.

Forums in which both countries engage

-) BRICS: This multilateral forum brings an alternate economic order to the existing one
-) IBSA: developing block
-) G4: supporting each other's bid as permanent members at UNSC.
-) G20

Major reasons behind lower prosperity in relations.

-) Similar resource base (natural) - E.g. cotton, fruits, coffee, grains which limits the trade relations.
-) Military & security interests do not exactly converge
E.g. India rattles with terrorism while Latin America is tackling drug-human trafficking.

Remarks

Q3. Recently India has made a move to push Hindi as one of official language at UN. What are major advantages of having an official language at UN and identify the major roadblocks in achieving this? (10 Marks)

India is making a push to make Hindi an official language at UN. This comes as a matter for majority Hindi speaking Indians as well as other nations who honour this language as a recognition of Hindi's popular use.

Major advantages:

- 1) Official works at UN would be ^{also} carried out in Hindi using agreements, documents etc.
- 2) Indian leaders and spokespersons can effectively use Hindi to communicate.
- 3) The declarations & policies at UN would gain wider reach to larger audience when people would be directly able to understand their work, facilitating participation.

Remarks

Q4. Is India's vote in the UN regarding Jerusalem contradictory to Modi's strategic doctrine transforming India from being a 'balancing power' to a 'leading power' on the international stage? Critically examine. (10 Marks)

When President of ^{US} refused to extend the holding back of shift of embassy to Jerusalem, and the consequent political movements by Israel, a UN resolution was introduced condemning it. It tried to support a two-state solution for the Israel-Palestine issue & a bilaterally negotiated stance.

India's vote for the resolution has come as a reminder of the 'balancing' we try to do between Muslim majority Palestine and our rising partner Israel.

- 1) This balancing had long held back our full fledged engagement with either countries. (Israel-Palestine)
- 2) Despite strategic partnership with USA, India sought to balance it with the "Palestinian cause," that has humanitarian & West Asian angle.

Remarks

Q5. The United States and North Korea have been stuck in a mutually reinforcing cycle of escalation and possibility of the confrontation spiraling into full scale war has become increasingly likely. What are the issues in the relations of North Korea and US. What is India's stand with respect to North Korea? (10 Marks)

In the backdrop of critical exchanges among the leaders of both Nations, USA and North Korea ~~are~~ ^{seem to be} moving towards an escalation and confrontation involving 'Nuclear button'.

Issues related to both countries :

-) USA is considered to be a hegemon and unilateral power by North Korea after its intervention for Libya, Syria, Afghanistan etc.
-) Being an autocratic state, North Korea is viewed with suspicion in democratic... USA.
-) Strategic US-South Korea-Japan relations escalate the threat levels for North Korea.
-) North Korea seeks to assert itself as a nuclear power, to gain concessions from world over, while 'nuclearising' / developing nuclear weapons is discouraged by West due to its threat Eg. Iran.

Remarks

Q6. Do you think that non-trade-related issues have moved to centre stage in bilateral and plurilateral trade negotiations? Give your opinion providing arguments.

(100 marks)

The issues and engagements in both bilateral and plurilateral negotiations have moved beyond trade, which reflects underlying engagement at strategic, political & cultural levels.

- ✓ 1) India-China - despite huge economic exchange, central issues revolve around territorial disputes and strategic implications e.g. in BRI, South China Sea.
- 2) India-US - besides trade, even at military level, 'Pivot to Asia' policy, increasing Indian maritime role of India in Indo-Pacific, diaspora linkages are central ones.
- ✓ 3) Indo-China Japan - despite low trade, investments from Japan are high, both countries cooperate in Quad, Asia-Africa Growth Corridor etc.
- 4) WTO - In Recent Ministerial (2017) issues such as Women Entrepreneurs, Labour regulations & such non-trade issues were raised by developed nations.

Remarks

Q7. India should be realistic about getting a permanent seat at UNSC given the current dynamics of geopolitics. In this context, discuss how India can gain entry into the coveted club? (10 Marks)

Indian entry to the coveted club is underlined by the consideration of making UNSC more representative & vibrant representing current global scenario & stakeholders.

Challenges due to Geopolitics:

- 1) Chinese opposition to Indian accession or ~~refuse~~ refusal to share the leadership position in Asia is reflected in its stance on NSG, UNSC, etc.
- 2) Even other members at UNSC feel uneasy to part with the 'Veto' power they are endowed with reflects 'Hunger for Power'.
- 3) Coffee Club constituting Pakistan, Argentina, ^{Italy} South Korea etc refuse to accept their arch-rivals gain entry in the coveted club.

Despite these roadblocks, India can work at multiple levels to gain entry - ✓

Remarks

Q8. WTO has limited success over last two decades and now its legitimacy is under question as new protectionist regimes are gaining power. Examine. (10 Marks)

The WTO sought to create a level playing field in Trade negotiation by deciding the rules of the game & acted as a platform for negotiation on tough issues like Subsidies.

But lately, its legitimacy & efficacy is being questioned.

- 1) Repeated US attempts to sabotage the dispute resolution mechanism by not allowing selection of judges.
- 2) Protectionist attitudes in UK, USA etc that calls for a 'Nation First' policy ignoring the cause of developing nations eg. refusing to take forward Doha Dept Agenda, not allowing AMS entitlement or permanent solution etc.
- 3) Real issues that are undermining trade prospects of new nations eg. fisheries, agriculture etc being trumped by newer issues like 'e-commerce, labour laws etc

Remarks

Q9. Recently India joined the Wassenaar Arrangement as its 42nd member at a meeting of the group in Vienna. What is Wassenaar Arrangement? What are the benefits of Wassenaar Arrangement's membership for India? (10 Marks)

Wassenaar Arrangement is a multi lateral export control regime that seeks to control the export, transfer and exchange of dual-use technology goods, to maintain a safer & secure world order.

It's a covered group of arrangements along with NSG, Australia Group & MTCR that seek to control technology exchanges so as to prevent it from falling into wrong hands; while agreeing on common terms of usage and sharing details about the same.

Benefits for India.

1) Access to technology that is restricted to members only, to boost our advances in research & production for security & strategic purpose.

Remarks

Q10. At a time when Western Internationalism is in retreat, the success of ASEAN as the world's most important regional organization after the European Union (EU) needs to be appreciated. What makes ASEAN so special and how has it contributed to the peace and stability of the region? (10 Marks)

The success of ASEAN as a regional organisation becomes crucial specially in the backdrop of growing retreat & protectionist trends of Brexit, America's policy etc

✓ ASEAN is at a special stature because:

-) 50 yrs of its engagement have been able to tide over economic crisis (1990s) that devastated economies.
-) Despite large powers like China in the neighbourhood, ASEAN leaders have held hands without succumbing to external pressure.
-) The cultural diversity in ASEAN Nations has rather strengthened their cooperative engagement. E.g. elements of Buddhist, Hindu tradition, largest muslim population in Indonesia, Filipino culture etc

Remarks

Section B

Q11. Elaborate, how China has taken leap-forward in the African region compared to other countries like India. Suggest measures to neutralize the Chinese presence and make deep inroads in Africa? (15 Marks)

In its bid to assert itself as a global power and developing favourable trade relations all around world, China has taken many steps to establish itself in Africa.

- 1) Chinese Investments in Nigeria, Ghana, Zimbabwe are unparalleled and provide infrastructure & capital to poor nations.
- 2) Recent military base at Djibouti (Horn of Africa Region) brings China closer to South Asian politics and Indian Ocean.
- 3) Fast project implementation and ground results in Africa are bringing tangible details about its engagement.
- 4) Even Chinese angle was supposed in recent resignation of Zimbabwe's President Mugabe, reflecting political inroads.

Remarks

-) India must become an attractive destination for African youth to study, tour & serve to harbour people to people linkages.; overcoming racial violence or attack on Black students
-) 'Solar Mamas' initiative by a University in Rajasthan can promote women empowerment
-) International Solar Alliance is an apt forum to engage with tropical-equatorial African countries.
-) Indian investments in trade, oil field, financing services etc can also boost commerce.

Hence a multilateral approach must be adopted to develop deep relationship with African culture and countries.

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Remarks

→ The inward looking approach can harm the global trade prospects & commerce linkages of developing nations. Eg. TPPA.

→ Refusal to commit to multilateral institutions like UNESCO can hamper the rules based order, erode American legitimacy and deprive the poor nations of American technology expertise.

The emerging competitive self interest vs globalism debate reflects this concern with USA, UK, etc (protectionist) wing on one side while Emerging Market Economies like China, India on the other.

→ Even EU has expressed solidarity with globalism.
→ It was the West, led by USA which spread the message of globalisation in the first place.

But many scholars have different views -

→ This self interest stance largely caters to the domestic audience which faces employment issues

Remarks

Q13. International Terrorism is on rise with increase in frequency of lone-wolf attacks. Elaborate and identify the major reasons behind such a rise and examine if it can be controlled through any strategy? (15 Marks)

Contrary to Terrorism being earlier confined to cross border levels and in radical West Asian or African countries; today International terrorism is gaining ground.

- o) Incident in Nice, France, (Paris) etc of lone wolf attack using large vehicles.
- o) London cultural events being disrupted by terrorists
- o) Club in USA attacked specially with LGBT harm intention.

These attacks are carried out by often local residents, who get radicalised and are without any military training - unilaterally conduct the attack (Lone Wolf).

Major Reasons can be identified as -

- o) Greater Communication Channels - open for radicalisation, social media etc

Remarks

-) Greater police surveillance, making such attempts, difficult to realize, by stepping up investigation of repeat criminals.
 -) Encouraging societal cohesion by respecting each others culture
 -) Presenting true picture about radicalisation, Muslim leaders expressing true nature of Islam
 -) Continued efforts to rebuild West Asian nations on their own terms can help restoration.
- Agreeing on Convention against Terrorism (proposed by India) & comprehensive - collaborative effort alone can help tackle terrorism.

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good

Remarks

1) India's tough stance against China on Indian ocean incursions, non-cooperation for BRI etc have facilitated tighter ^{Sino} Russian embrace.

Nevertheless, these countries have tried to rejuvenate this 'triangle'.

2) Russia supports India to balance Chinese rise by our bid into SCO was welcomed.

3) Even at NSG, NAM, etc, Russian support is ^{UNSC} laudable.

4) China & India rally together against growing protectionism also supported also by Russia.

5) Trade linkages are growing stronger also by geostrategic engagements allowed by Russia.

by INSTC - North South Corridor (Iran-India Russia)

6) SCO is a forum where all 3 powers share platform to tackle security issues in the region.

Remarks

Q15. As per Reports, India falls squarely in the "opportunity" category, rather than in that of "threats" or even "competition" for the US. Analyze the statement in context of New National Security Strategy (NSS) of US and its meaning for India. (15 Marks)

The American engagement with India specially in 20th century, was marked by ^{with} suspicious support and hindered linkages. The liberalisation, growth of American Investments, rising terror threat and increasing economic-political prowess of India in ~~East~~ Asia has helped boost our ties.

India being seen as an 'opportunity' by the US stems from its own aspirations & regional goals.

1) US's 'Pivot to Asia' narrative, as a counter to Chinese assertiveness presents engagement with ^{India} ~~USA~~ as a fruitful endeavour.

2) This is largely to maintain its own domination, which is why India does not fall in the category of 'competition'.

Remarks

This gives a clear indication to India & affirms American strategic support. It partly legitimises & boost India's stature in the eyes of American allies & the world. But despite the reassurance expected by India, USA, India must carve out its own strategic policy to cooperate with the developing world eg ASEAN, Africa, South Asia etc. This can help India work in enlightened self interest & pursue own goals of energy-trade security for years to come.

⑥
fear about apprehensions
of dilution of strategic
autonomy.

Remarks

1) Internationalisation of 'Renminbi' commensurate with Chinese economic prowess.

2) China's continuing need of energy, minerals and resources available in South China Sea, has also driven this.

India senses the threat perception which Chinese presence closer home, poses to our sovereignty & regional aspirations

3) Engagement with Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles etc for maritime surveillance, meteorological cooperation etc

4) Development of Chabahar port in Iran close to Djibouti's base & Gwadar port of China

5) Continued efforts to ~~take~~ participate Trincomalee port project in Sri Lanka

6) Growing military exercise with South East Asian nations in SIMBEX with Singapore, Indonesia, Changi naval base, etc.

Remarks

Q17. What is the significance of Yuan's inclusion in the SDR basket of the IMF for China as well as global economy? Will it erode the importance of dollar and euro as international currencies? (15 Marks)

For long, the International Economic arena has been dominated by dollar & euro; due to which they have determined the exchange price for rest of currencies.

But with the Rise in Yuan's acceptance as well as its inclusion in SDR basket can bring crucial changes.

- 1) For China, 'Internationalisation of Yuan' is a good sign of its growing economic hold on trade transactions worldwide.
- 2) Greater acceptance of Yuan will increase commercial exchange of Chinese commodities & services leading to further dept.

Remarks

But still major transactions, both by quantity and value, ~~eg~~ energy-fuel purchases happen in Dollar-Euros.

→ The Credibility of Yuan is low comparatively also due to the state intervention, non-market economy status etc. ✓

Hence, the Euro & Dollar would continue to dominate as International currencies riding on the technology leadership, International brands and production quality in both goods & services.

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Remarks

-) It decides on UN outlook and agenda as well as perspective on major issues in the world.
-) It finalises sanctions on countries that violate laws Eg. North Korean case.

Need of Reforms in UNSC.

-) The body is based on post World War global scenario which has been drastically altered.
-) Developing countries like India, and even Japan, Germany are economically robust.
-) Military powers have distributed; so the body is less representative.
-) It gives undue veto power to causing concentration of power that roadblocks certain dept.
Eg. Continuous veto by China on inclusion of Azhar. Enlist
-) Non-permanent powers have very little say & UNGA as the largest representative body is unable to express its concerns.

Reasons of delay :

-) Unwillingness of the permanent members to give up their veto & other powers as UNSC seat.

Remarks

Q19. From Syria to a strategic partnership with Iran earlier this year, Russia has positioned itself as a key player in the West Asia's affairs. Elaborate the statement. Analyze the impact on India. (15 Marks)

In a post-cold-war era, in the late 20th century, Russian power was said to have receded and diminished. But with continuous engagement in West Asia, military expertise etc, Russia has again been able to assert itself under President Putin.

1) Russia has come as a force to reckon with in Syrian soil supporting Assad's regime which the Americans seek to tackle/topple.

2) Despite continuous pressure from NATO, it has tried to maintain this position using boots on ground as well as cutting edge military equipment.

3) Even when tough sanctions were put on it, Russia played a crucial role in realizing the Nuclear deal with Iran, without buckling.

#1

Remarks

*) Hence growing role by Russia, ^{and} ~~its~~ conflict with USA in West Asia can even aggravate the peace & security situation.

*) This would require fine diplomatic balancing by India's side.

*) Increasing Russian role can also positively assure that Beijing does not get to unilaterally influence West Asian politics due to power vacuum anytime soon.

Hence, India must work on deepening & maintaining its ^{ties} ~~its~~ with Moscow ~~so as to~~ to build on the previous foundation & leverage its consolidated position.



-Remarks

-) America first and Brexit reflect inward looking trend and Protectionism that affects global trade.
-) Attempts by powerful players like USA to roadblock the smooth functioning. eg by not appointing the judge to the dispute resolution mechanism of WTO.
-) The function of the body - to give equal voice to all members, including small, poor & developing nations has not helped to realize their goals.
-) eg AMS entitlements to ~~poor~~ developed countries are hardly enjoyed by China, India.
-) Even the negotiation on food security and its permanent solution is not being agreed to as observed in Buenos Aires (2017)
- WTO procedure needs to be revamped.
-) Mini Ministerial organised between 2yr gaps of Ministerial conference can help break lockjam
-) Evidence based judgements on eg in India 2018. subsidies, so that the weakest countries get maximum benefits.
-) Internal mechanism to safeguard their interests

Remarks