

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।)

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Test Code : M25GAT01 Test 1
Name : Yashaswini Raj Vardhan
Roll No : CAVA 25 ECL 1016
Date : 22/06/2025
Time : 3:20 - 5:02
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Q1.

The Reciprocal Tariff Plan of USA is a Tit-for-Tat game, which has escalated a new series of trade wars, a shift from liberal free trade position India was called "Tariff King" and faces a ~26% tariff.

Economic challenges for India

- ① Possible slowdown
 Tariff ↑ → Export ↓ → Production ↓
 Investment ← Savings ↓ ← Wages ↓
- ② Imported inflation due to retaliatory trade wars
 eg oil imports (75% energy needs)
- ③ Uncertainty ↑ \leftarrow Investment ↓
 Currency fluctuations ↑
- ④ H1-B Visa changes: Talent mobility issues

Geopolitical challenges

- ① Russia - China axis strengthening
- ② De-globalisation → failure of multilateralism
- ③ Threat of sanctions: Iran and Russia crude oil



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Opportunities for India

- ① Lower Tariff than competitors
Eg Vietnam ($\approx 48\%$), Bangladesh ($\approx 37\%$), China ($> 100\%$)
- ② Opportunity for Textile sector
- ③ Exemptions to pharma sector (major export)
- ④ Boost to Electronic manufacturing
- ⑤ solar panel exports \uparrow

Steps India should take

- ① Sign FTAs with US, EU, etc.
 - ② Regional integration
Eg ASIMTEC Chamber of Commerce
 - ③ Strategic multialignment
Eg US/EU - BRICS/SCO, "Dragon-Elephant Tangle"
 - ④ Capitalise on China through PLI, MII, etc.
 - ⑤ Boost Domestic Demand through Budget Reforms (2025) and Repo cuts
- "Trump's Transactional America's first stance is good for India... promote multipolarity" (EAM Jaishankar)

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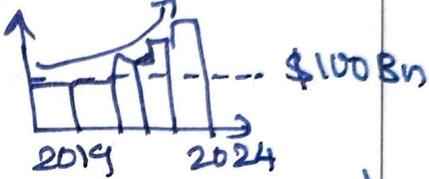
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Q2

"The bond between Indian Diaspora and their homeland is eternal" (President Murrey)

Diaspora's Role

- 
- ① Source of Remittances (Economic)
 - ② "Living Boudge" (EAM Jaisankar)
→ Role in Trade, Technology, Tourism
 - ③ Diasporic Philanthropy and Investment
 - ④ "Greatest secret weapon" in India-US Relations (Former US Amb.)
→ US-India Civil Nuclear Deal
 - ⑤ Soft Power Diplomacy: cultural exchange
 - ⑥ Highly skilled workforce
→ contributes significantly to host country's economy
 - ⑦ Prospective channel: inspire better life decisions
 - ⑧ Absence Channel: leave a vacuum for upward mobility
 - ⑨ Return channel: Bringing back capital, Technology and Entrepreneurship
 - ⑩ Social remittance: Ideas, Social capital

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Challenges → Parliamentary Standing Committee in 2025

- ① No Centralized Database
- ② No grievance redressal mechanism
- ③ Lack of unified policy framework
- ④ High Transaction cost on Remittance
- ⑤ Recruitment malpractice
- ⑥ Lack of support by Govt in host countries
- ⑦ Cyber Slavery in SE Asia

Initiatives by Indian Govt

- ① OCI card system
- ② Pravasi Bhartiya Divas celebration (PB)
- ③ PB Bima Yojana
- ④ Kerala's Return Migration Policy
- ⑤ Know India Program.

India should evolve a more institutional solution, taking inspiration from countries like Philippines: a department, employer-staffing pay model and Govt. to Govt. Agreements for mobility.

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Q3.

The Indus water Treaty had survived 3 wars, several proxy wars, and complete diplomatic breakdown.

However, recently "put in abeyance" as "water and blood can't flow together" (PM Modi)

Diplomatic and Security implications

Intended implications

- ① Raising the cost of terrorism for Pakistan
- ② Renegotiating a more fair treaty
- ③ Uncertainty = psychological warfare
- ④ Escalating Federal faulting in Pak.
- ⑤ Economic punishment for sponsors of terrorism

Possible fallout/Challenges

- ① unilateral withdrawal: Harmful India's image as responsible player
- ② China - am's: Brahmaputra
- ③ Internationalization of dispute
- ④ sets a dangerous precedence in neighbourhood.

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The Treaty!



- ① Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab): for Pakistan (80% water)
- ② Eastern Rivers for India (Ravi, Beas, Satluj) (20% water)
- ③ Grade Dispute Redressed
 - Permanent Indus Canal
 - World Bank mediation
 - PCA

Structural Issues

- ① Pakistan has 48% basin area, but gets 80% of water
- ② Fundamental change: spirit of Goodwill & friendship (Preamble)
- ③ Law - fare : weaponisation of Art-9 by Pakistan Provision
- ④ No exit clause or modification timeline
- ⑤ 1960's realities have changed
 - Agriculture • Population needs • Climate change

India should defend its stand as per Art. 60 & 62 of Vienna Convention (Not a party). And proactively engage diplomatic support from strategic partners



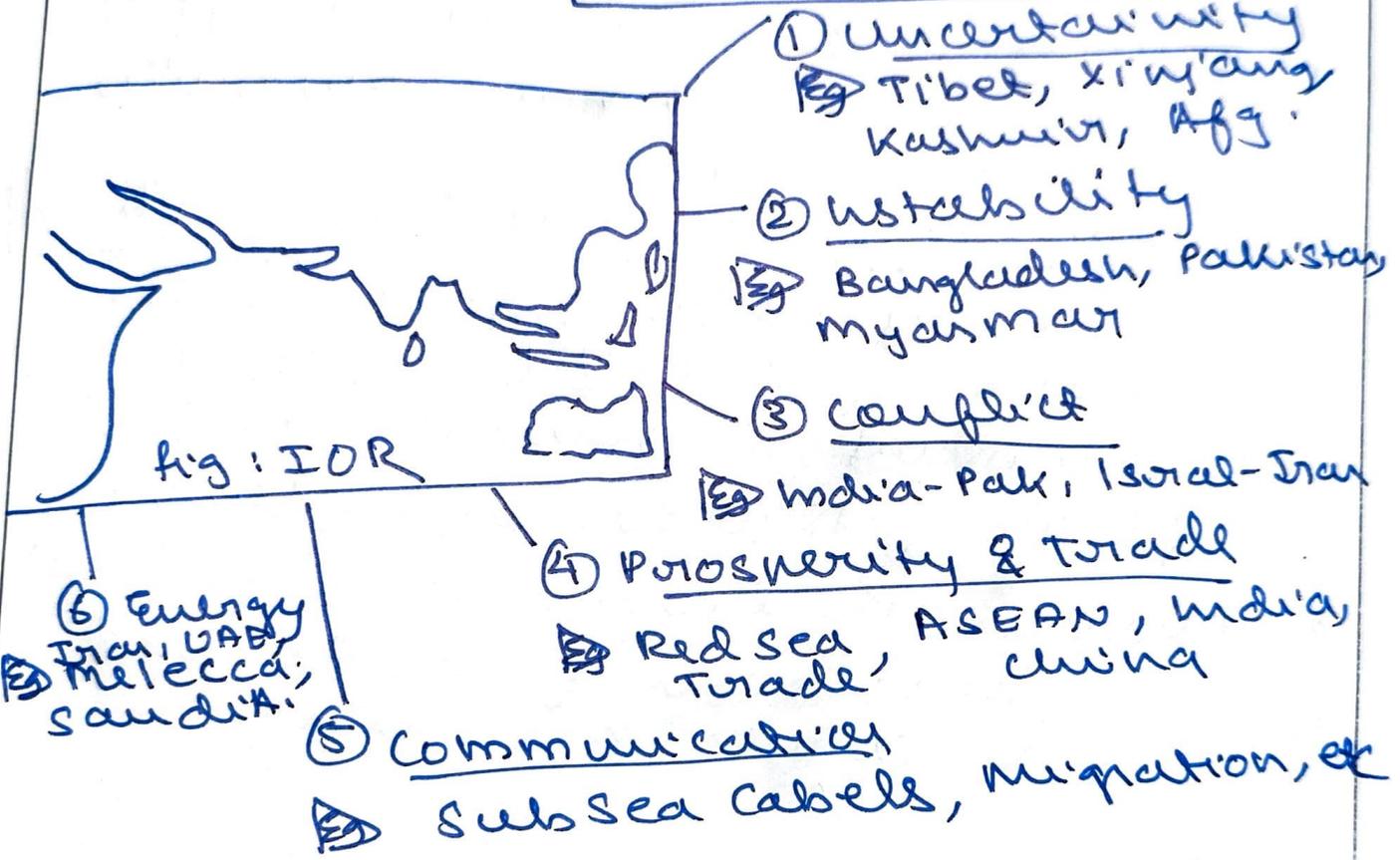
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Q4.

"Indian Ocean Region is where India asserts, China Eyes, and USA intervenes"
Geostrategic Theatre



Fragmented Security Cooperation

- ① Role of USAD & I2U2
- ② China's BRI and String of Pearls
- ③ Indian Ocean Rim Association
- ④ ASEAN security
- ⑤ Colombo Sec. Conclav

Indian Ocean Rim Association

It was founded in 1997 by efforts of India and South Africa mainly.

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Security Partnership

- ① Dual use vessels (IUU fishing)
 - ② Environmental Security
 - ③ Human Security: Rescue & relief
 - ④ Training & Transportation
 - ⑤ Equipment & info. sharing
 - ⑥ Disaster relief
- Maritime Domain Awareness

Challenges in Maritime Security (China)

- ① Chinese expansionism through string of pearls (Dual use ports)
- ② many members have joined BRI
- ③ Debt Trap Diplomacy by China
- ④ Chinese military Base in Djibouti
- ⑤ weaponisation of Trade and supply chain by China

IORA is a very diverse grouping both politically and developmentally. It lacks cohesion and collectivism. Still as a large multilateral Treaty Organisation, it can be leveraged under India's leadership and vision of SAGAR / MAHASAGAR to create a comprehensive maritime security framework.

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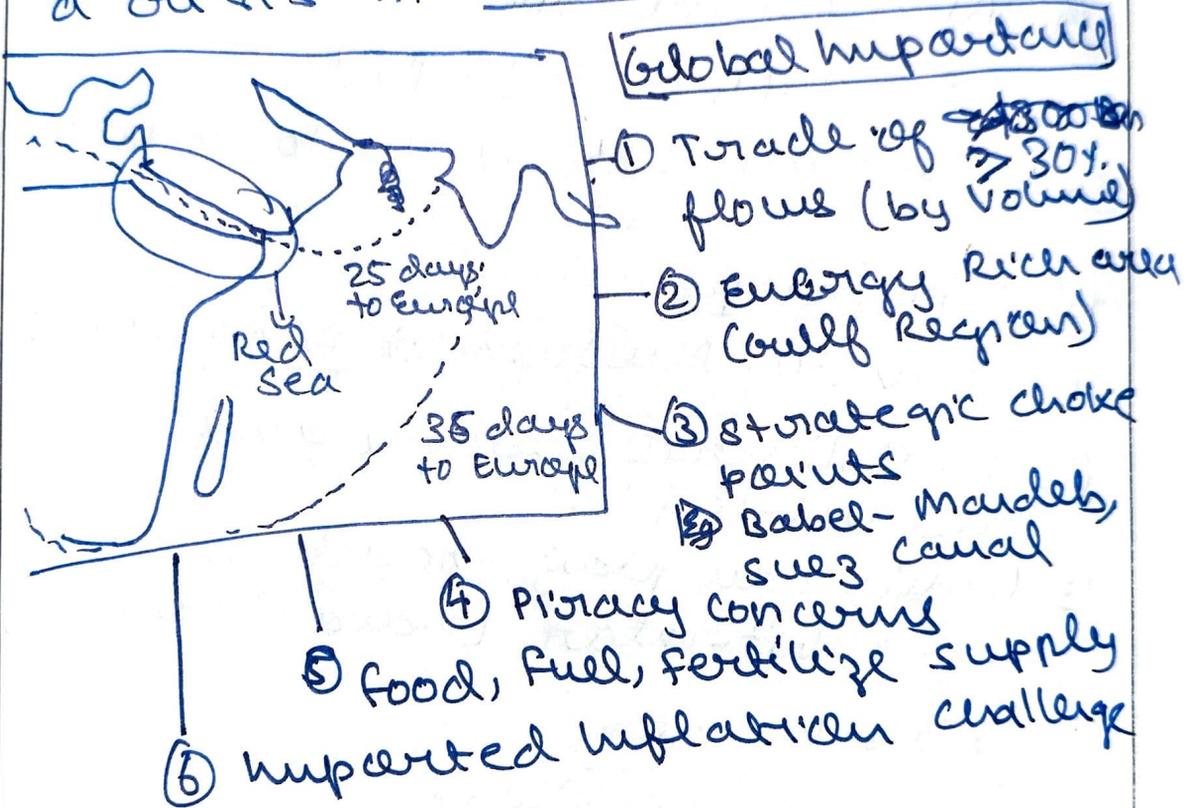
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Q5

Recent tensions between Iran backed Yemen-based Houthi Rebels and other countries have created a crisis in Red Sea.



Ongoing Crisis Impact

Regional Stability

- ① Increased tensions between Iran and rest
- ② Trade \downarrow \rightarrow Poverty & \uparrow \rightarrow Radicalization \uparrow
- ③ Food insecurity and Fertilizer shortage
- ④ Cost of living \uparrow , Inclusive Development \downarrow

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Global Supply Chain

- ① Time ↑, Cost ↑ ~~to supply~~
- ② Disruptions — geopolitically motivated
- ③ Weaponisation of Trade
- ④ Bloc formation → tensions ↑
- ⑤ Perishables' cost ↑↑
- ⑥ Insurance costs ↑ due to uncertainty

Possible steps

- ① security - development dehyphenation
- ② multilateral dialogue and resolutions
- ③ India can play proactive role of arbitrator (India-Iran Rels)

India's interests

- ① Food, Fuel, Fertilizer
- ② 80% of trade with US, UK, EU, etc.
(7300 Bn)
- ③ Diaspora in Gulf Region
- ④ Indian co. & operate ports in region

"For governments, economic security has become as critical as economic prosperity" — Foreign Secy Vikram Murli. India should focus on INSTC and IMEC as alternatives

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96.

The expanded BRICS met for its first summit level engagement at Kazakhstan, Russia.

BRICS was expanded to include 5 new members, including 2 African states.

BRICS's Claim as Voice of Global South

- ① Demographic power: > 47% population
- ② Geographical expanse: across 4 continents covering 36% land area
- ③ Economic might: 39% GDP with 3.5% projected growth (IMF)
- ④ Trading influence: 24% global trade
- ⑤ Energy security: 43% oil production
- ⑥ Mineral Reserves: 72% of REEs

Achievements

- ① Alternative Institutional Building
↳ NDB and CRA (vs. WB & IMF)
- ② BRICS (7) Dialogue: Track 1.5
- ③ Cyber security initiative
- ④ Grain exchange agreement
- ⑤ R&D vaccine centre

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Prospects

- ① counterbalancing Economic might of G7
- ② pursue de-dollarisation
- ③ oppose unilateral sanctions by the US (CAATSA)
- ④ Accomodative Multilateralism in an era of unilaterals
- ⑤ Defence cooperation in future

¶

The China factor

- ① China has bilateral disputes with India, Indonesia (S. China Sea)
- ② most of GDP, Trade, Mineral, etc. belong to China
- ③ uses as tool for Anti-West agenda
- ④ Chinese expansionism creates a debt-deficit (eg) Debt-Trap

Other challenges (particularly India)

- ① No united cohesive ideology
- ② Democratic deficit (eg) Russia, Iran, China, UAE
- ③ Lack charter and secretariat
- ④ Anti-West instead of Non-West

- undermine our strategic multilateral
- ⑤ De-politicisation is a distant dream (80% of over the counter currency)
 - ⑥ Internal Trade is very low
 - ⑦ Lacks people-to-people connect

What can be done

- ① Reformed multilateralism reflective of present realities
- ② Future Ready with partnership in : Digital, Environmental, Connectivity, Space, etc.
- ③ Diplomatic resolution of internal disputes
- ④ Permanent Secretariat to institutionalize
- ⑤ member outlining common agenda

BRICS is the key to "Building responsive inclusive and collective solutions" (PM Modi). It could become capable of influencing the future of world politics

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Q7

India has recently increased its diplomatic correspondence with Afghanistan's Taliban regime.

Significant shift in Policy

- ① Opposing Taliban regime throughout 1990's to present
→ now engaging subtly
- ② Not recognising it as legitimate state so balancing strategic meeting
- ③ Opening up of embassy and visa services
- ④ Foreign Secretary's visit

From _____ to _____

Passive Deterrence	—————	Proactive engaged
moral diplomacy	—————	Pragmatic realism
symptomatic Treatment	—————	Root cause elimination
engaging only state	—————	multi stakeholders engagement

Rational for Shift

- ① Deny Pakistan's "strategic depth"
- ② Afghanistan's support and outreach to India after Peshawar Attack
- ③ Tehreek-e-Taliban clashes with Pak.
- ④ Chabahar Port : needs exemptions from US sanctions
- ⑤ utilising TAPI pipeline
- ⑥ mineral wealth of Afghanistan
- ⑦ Need of students, patients, etc. on humanitarian grounds
- ⑧ Development investment > \$3Bn incl. Parliament Building
- ⑨ increasing civil influence in US vacuum

Modes of Engagement

- ① humanitarian Relief Assistance
- ② Enhanced trade arrangements
- ③ connectivity partnership
- ④ medical and educational tourism
- ⑤ development initiatives
- ⑥ possible minerals agreement
- ⑦ cultural and cricket diplomacy

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Challenges of Engagement

- ① Taliban not recognised by any UN member
- ② Human Rights, women and minorities issues
- ③ possible backlash through Terrorer networks
- ④ Thin moral line of engaging without recognising
- ⑤ Taliban leaders are under UN sanctions.
- ⑥ Golden Crescent: Doungs, Arung
India faced the brunt of only engaging with ruling govt.
in case of Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, etc.
It is more pragmatic and utilitarian to engage in dialogue with all stakeholders. "India's foreign policy is about forging converges and managing divergences"
(BAM Jaisankar)

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Q8,

Iran - Israel conflict has escalated from proxy-warfare to direct confrontation.

Strategic interests with Iran

- ① Energy security : crude oil
- ② Development investment
- ③ Connectivity : INSTC, Chabahar
- ④ By-passing Pakistan to Afg. & CARs
- ⑤ Cultural relation (antiquity)
- ⑥ Strategic multialignment

Strategic interests with Israel

- ① Defence equipments imports
Drones, missiles
- ② Precision Agriculture Technology
- ③ Intelligence sharing arrangements
- ④ Innovation & Technology engagement
- ⑤ Convergence in I2U2 for middle East's stability
- ⑥ Counter-Terrorism cooperation

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Challenges posed

- ① Instability in Region
- ② chances of Extra-territorial intermentions
- ③ Weaponisation of supply chain and Trade
- ④ Dampers - IMEC development
- ⑤ Indian Diaspora in region

How India can Balance

- ① Conciliation-Mediation through dialogue
- ② Multilateral solution similar to Abraham Accord
- ③ maintain strategic autonomy
- ④ Security-Development Synergy
- ⑤ focus on diversifying imports away from both.

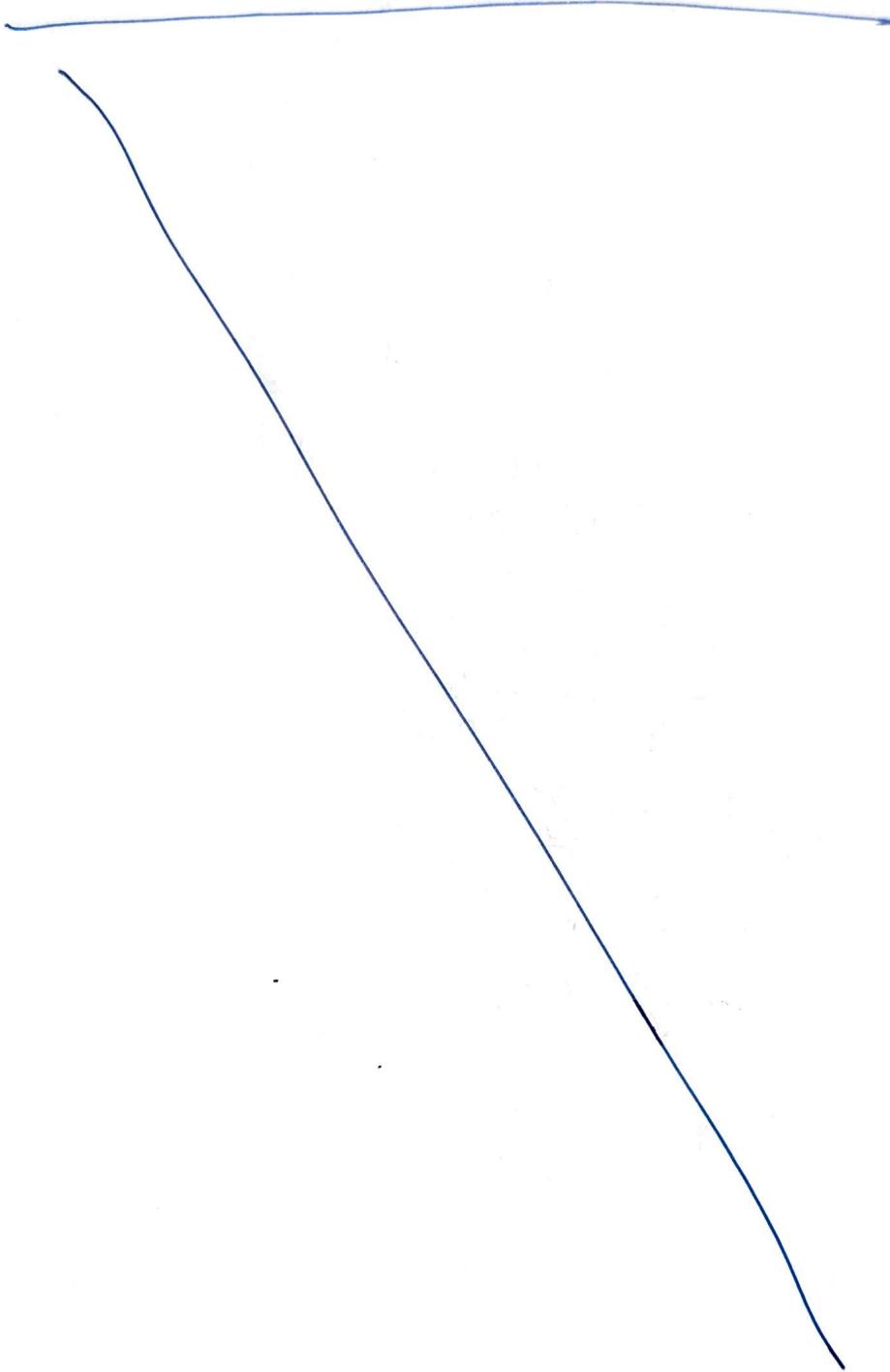
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"This is an era of Buddha,
not the era of Yuddha (war)
(PM)."



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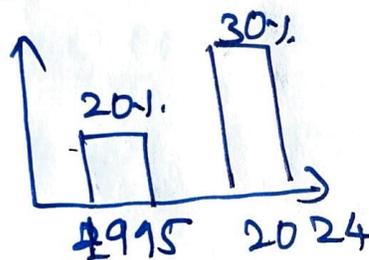
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Q 9

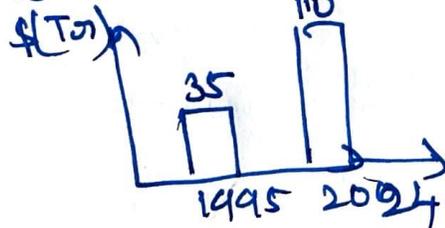
"New imperative of GeoEconomics and Geo-Technology are appending the old promises and promises of Globalisation" - Vikram Mishra (Foreign Secy)

WTO as cornerstone of global trade architecture;

① Global Trade - to - GDP ratios



② Global GDP



③ WTO Principles

- Free Trade
- Fair Trade
- Rules based Trade
- Non Discrimination

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Challenges undermining WTO

- ① Developed vs. Developing
→ former bullies the latter
by Non-Tariff barriers
▶ CBAM of EU
- ② Disagreement and Deadlocks
→ Positive consensus model
is ineffective
- ③ Defunct dispute redressal mechanism since 2019
- ④ De-globalisation due to
Trade wars, Geopolitics, etc.
- ⑤ Dispute of Fishing, Agriculture
and NAMA
- ⑥ No formal definition of
Developed vs. Developing
- ⑦ Perceived Chinese influence
by USA
- ⑧ GATT based order of 1940s
is no longer relevant
- ⑨ Push for Non-WTO measures
like Human Rights, Labour laws, etc.

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Suggested Reforms

- ① update rules and frameworks
- ② strengthen Transparency and notification norms
- ③ firm definitions like world Bank
- ④ Review and enforce agreements
- ⑤ Review dispute Redressal
- ⑥ Equip for emerging challenges like e-commerce, intellectual protection, sustainability

In today's world, "peace security and prosperity are indivisible" (President of EU commission).

Thus, rules based free and fair trade will promote peace better than any security arrangement.

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Q10.

The Indian and Chinese leaders met at sidelines of BRICS summit in Kazan to discuss new border agreement.

Recent Efforts

① Normalisation of Diplomatic ties

② Political Re-Engagement

├ Summit level
├ Spl. Representative led
└ Foreign Secy. level.

③ military de-escalation

Disengagement → De Escalation → De-militarisation

④ Resuming Direct Air Connection

⑤ Restoring visa for Journalists, Think Tanks, etc.

⑥ Planning Mansarovar Yatra

⑦ Patrolling in western-sector as per pre-2020 standpoints

⑧ Grazing rights to Ladakhis

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space) कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अनिश्चित कुछ न लिखें।

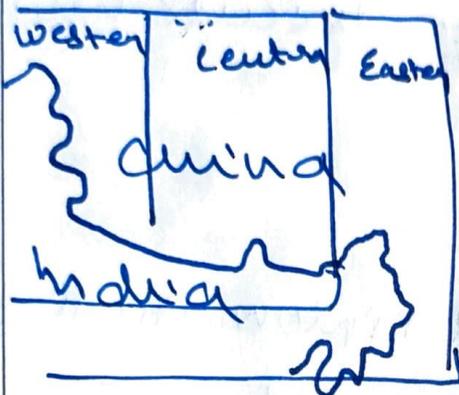
UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए। Candidates must not write on this margin

Challenges Impeding Normalisation

① Legacy Issue of Perceptions



• Western Sector:

- ① Johnson Line (India)
- ② McDonald Line (China)

• Eastern Sector

- ① McMahon Line (India)
- ② Arunachal as S. Tibet (China)

② Chinese Expansionism over land and sea

- ① Tiber and Five Finger (Mao)

- ② Stowing of pearls

- ③ Use of salami slicing Technology

③ Security - Development Hyphenation

→ Trade & Sovereignty are interlinked

- ④ Non Traditional security threats
eg Cyber, Hydrological

- ⑤ Nomenclature and cartography aggression

- ⑥ Stalled USA to NE Indians

- ⑦ Anis - with - Pakistan

China uses Pakistan as a "low cost deterrent" to "ban-up" India

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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From confrontation to cautious

- ① Army Chief: "relations are stable, not normal, and sensitive"
- ② S. Jaishankar: India and China have mutual interests
- ③ Regan Doctrine: "Trust but ~~not~~ verify" situation

Initiatives by India

- ① Border Area Dev. Program and Vibrant Villages
- ② Border infra through BRO, NHDC
- ③ Aviation infra → DBO Airstrip
- ④ Indigenous Technology: T-40 tanks
- ⑤ Comprehensive integrated Border Management System

"India-China relationship is important not only for our people, but for global peace, stability and progress" (PM Modi)
While Chinese president proposed a "Dragon-Elephant Tango" to bring in the Asian Century.