

NEXT IAS

(To be filled by candidate)

Name : Raj Kumar Mahto

Roll No. : Date of Exam : 06-09-2024

Mobile No. : Email : ?

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☐ Bhopal ☐ Jaipur ☐
Mukherjee Nagar ☐ Prayagraj ☐ Online ☒

CSE (MAINS) TEST SERIES-2024

Test-08	POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Dated : 18-08-2024	

Time Allowed : Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

(Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions)

There are **EIGHT** questions divided in **Two** sections and printed in **ENGLISH**.

Candidate has to attempt **FIVE** questions in all.

Question No. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, any **THREE** are to be attempted choosing at least **ONE** question from each section.

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission. Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum- Answer (QCA) booklet in the space provided.

No marks will be given for answers written in a medium other than the authorized one.

Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.

Attempts of question shall be counted in sequential order, unless struck off. Attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question cum Answer (QCA) booklet must be clearly struck off.

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(For filling by Examiners only)

Q. No.	Page No.	Max. Marks	Marks	Total	Signature
1. (a)	4	10			
1. (b)	6	10			
1. (c)	8	10			
1. (d)	10	10			
1. (e)	12	10			
2. (a)	14	15			
2. (b)	17	15			
2. (c)	20	20			
3. (a)	24	15			
3. (b)	27	15			
3. (c)	30	20			
4. (a)	34	15			
4. (b)	37	15			
4. (c)	40	20			
5. (a)	44	10			
5. (b)	46	10			
5. (c)	48	10			
5. (d)	50	10			
5. (e)	52	10			
6. (a)	54	15			
6. (b)	57	15			
6. (c)	60	20			
7. (a)	64	15			
7. (b)	67	15			
7. (c)	70	20			
8. (a)	74	15			
8. (b)	77	15			
8. (c)	80	20			
Grand Total					

Remarks

Observations:

SECTION-A

Write the following question in about 150 words.

- Q.1 (a) Discuss the strategic significance of Chabahar port for India. (10 marks, 150 words)

Chabahar port is an important infrastructure and connectivity initiative in IRAN by India.

Chabahar port has huge strategic significance. Since it is located at the Persian gulf region (choke point) of Indian ocean, it would provide India important hedge to protect its shipments.

Chabahar port is connected to Iran which then passes to Afghanistan. Thus it is important to provide connectivity to Afghanistan and then to Central Asia (bypassing Pakistan). It would bolster our connect central Asia policy.

India no longer need to depend on Pakistan for connectivity to central Asia and west Asia.

Chabahar port will help India to have presence in Afghanistan and prevent Pakistan to have strategic depth in Afghanistan - thus helping India to face Pakistan in case of conventional war.

Chabahar port is very close to Gwadar port where China is building infrastructure within CPEC. This would help India to prevent Chinese activities to hurt national interest of India.

Thus, India should focus on building the port as soon as possible and which requires balancing in west Asia to increase ties with Iran.

Q.1 (b)

Write a short note on India's contribution to the UN.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Candidates
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UN is based on the ideas of liberal institutionalism according to which institutions convert jungle into zoo.

India is a founding member of UN. UN is based on the concept of 'collective security' to prevent conflicts and increase cooperation.

However due to failure of collective security, UN has formed peacekeeping as an extraconstitutional method to promote peace.

India's role in UN peacekeeping is immense. India is the second largest troop contributing country in UN peacekeeping missions.

India has won the 'Bag Hammarskjöld award' for peacekeeping. India has established training institutions in New Delhi for training of peacekeepers.

India's role in UNGA is supporting various resolutions to condemn the action of aggressor. eg: supported resolution against Sri Lanka for human right violation of Tamils.

India is pushing reforms in UN so that it could remain relevant. India while holding the UNSC presidency in August 2021 supported for anti radicalism and terrorism.

UN Reforms is necessary to protect the liberal world order.

Q.1 (c)

India's interests in Latin America

(10 marks, 150 words)

Candidates
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Latin America is the last frontier in India's foreign policy.

Latin America comes in India's picture as South-South Cooperation.

Latin America has evolved as a huge geostrategic and geo-economic interests to India.

Latin America is huge deposits of critical minerals eg: the lithium triangle which is important for India's energy security.

It has evolved as a place for investment from India business in core funds like automobiles, mining, infrastructure etc.

The think tanks of Latin America has dwiglighted the potential to use India as an

alternative to china for economic interest because of china's extractive policies.

Latin America also important for food security because of the grasslands (campos, llanos) which support wheat & c

Latin America is also important geopolitically. The support of these countries help in UN reforms, global south cooperation. Brazil is part of BRICS.

This India need to remove its mental barrier in connecting with Latin America, as it has untapped potential which can become an important pillar in future.

Q.1 (d)

Discuss the key demands of India in WTO.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Candidates
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WTO as part of Bretton Woods institution
which is based on the liberal
world order.

WTO is based on Washington
Consensus among to liberal trade
and not aid should be the
criteria for development.

India wants multiple
reforms in WTO (in the context/
behalf of the developing countries)

In terms of agreement on Agriculture
(AoA) India wants tariff protection
in Agriculture exports, since
Agriculture is sensitive part in
many developing economy. eg: India
wants lower threshold of significant
safeguard mechanism (SSM) and
non products part of 'Special
product'.

India counts permanent solution on the peace clause, on India's MSP policy which is part of WTO's Amber box subsidy. India wants MSP out of Amber box subsidy.

India counts exception on TRIPS in terms of Compulsory licensing for generic drugs.

India wants custom duty on e-commerce, more services trade in Mode I and Mode 4, moratorium on firm subsidy & and resolve the issue in dispute settlement mechanism, which is making WTO dysfunctional.

India should support WTO reform along with dispute settlement to prevent decline of multilateralism.

Q.1 (e)

Discuss IPEF as an alternative framework to existing trade deals.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Candidates
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IPBF (Indo Pacific Economic forum) is an US led economic partnership grouping in the Indo Pacific.

IPBF has four pillars which focuses on trade, supply chain resilience, green economy, fair trade.

It replaces the earlier framework like BSCW (Build, back better world) and Blue dot network. It is a US response to ~~counter~~ counter China led economic cooperation in the Indo Pacific including BRP.

However, there are systemic issues and limitations in IPEF as an alternative framework.

there is lack of trust and confidence in western institutions because of the failure of earlier attempts like BRW and blue dot network.

India is not the part of trade pillar. Though IPBF is advantageous in supply chain resilience and reduce supply risk from China, it is important to realize that we cannot completely decouple China.

The East Asian economies, countries of central south including India is dependent on China. China is largest trading partner of India, ASEAN-RCBP etc.

Thus currently, IPBF framework as an alternative is a weak framework.

Q.4 (a)

Discuss India's role as a leader of the global south in democratising International governing institutions.

(15 marks, 200 words)

Candidates must not write on this margin

India - Global South cooperation has maintained a continuity during the cold war and post cold war. The continuity is showcased by India's role as a leader of global south.

During, cold war, through the platforms like NAM and post cold war through regional groupings like IBSA, BRICS, G20, India has emerged as the leader of Global South.

The main agenda of the South-South cooperation is reforming multilateralism. India through Global South has forwarded many reforms in democratising international governing institutions.

India has been proposing NIBO (New International economic

order) against the liberal international economic order, which benefits the global North.

The main platform for reforming UN is WTO. India pushing reforms in WTO agreement on agriculture (subsidies), more voice of the concerns of the global South (aid and not only trade), Recently in MC12, India with the help of Africa able to gain IPR waiver on COVID vaccines.

Similarly, India is pushing representation reforms in UN. India supports L-69 group for representation from Africa, to make the global governance more representative thus democratic.

India's strategy of south-south cooperation is demand driven and aid without conditionalities, unlike aid mechanism of world bank and IMF.

Recently, India conducted the G20 summit last year (2023). G20 is a major platform to represent the concerns of the Global South in reforming multilateralism. India invited African Union as the new member.

India also started 'Voice of the Global South Summit' to represent the voice of the unheard.

The future roadmap of India would be to deepen its relations with Africa and South America, to bolster its role as a leader of Global South.

Q.4 (b)

Examine the challenges before India in realising its claim at UNSC. Should India continue demanding UNSC membership, give your opinion. (15 marks, 200 words)

Candidates must not write on this margin

UNSC is the principal organ of UN, to fulfill its aim of collective security.

India has since long time, demanding UNSC reform along with its permanent membership. However there are multiple challenges.

The charter of UNSC is difficult to amend. It requires 2/3rd of the majority and no veto by any of the permanent (P5) members. China does not support India's claim in UNSC.

There is no fixed criteria for adding membership in UNSC. That results in adhocism.

The current P5 members do not want to break the status quo. Similarly, there has been opposition to India's membership by Pakistan.

India adopted multilateral approach with the help of G4 (India, Brazil, Japan, Germany), but it is challenged and opposed by Coffee Club.

Yes! India should continue demanding UNSC membership

The vision of our former PM Pt. Nehru was to help India find a rightful place in the Community of Nations. UNSC membership is not just symbolic importance but also strategic importance.

India could protect its core national interest like solve the issue in Kashmir. It could prevent the platform of UNSC from any anti-national activities (check China)

India can shape the mandate of UN and bring multilateral reforms as a leader of global South.

If UN today holds any relevance it is because of India, because of its role in UN Peacekeeping missions. Thus, ~~not~~ by denying the membership would be not justifiable.

Thus, India should find new ways and methods to increase its engagement with UN and seek UNSC reforms.

Q.4 (c)

What is China's middle kingdom syndrome? Discuss its implications for India.
(20 marks, 250 words)

China is said to have "middle kingdom syndrome" according to which China is leader in Asia and all other countries are its junior partners.

Since the Communist Revolution of 1949, China is driven by this middle kingdom complex. This was reflected in Mao's five fingers and palm theory and expansionism.

After Deng Xiaoping peaceful rise, and with the coming of Xi Jinping, China has adopted wolf warrior diplomacy to fulfill this 'China dream' and correct the humiliation of past.

This is evident in China's expansion in East, South, North and West.

In East, China wants to integrate Taiwan forcefully, it's growing assertiveness in South China Sea,

Similarly in West and North, China has 'reach policy' as a near arctic state and increase engagement with Central Asia to bring it under its sphere of influence.

Chinese expansionism in South has contributed huge complications for India.

According to Mao's palm and four fingers theory, Tibet is the palm, and Ladakh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh are the four fingers in which China seeks its sovereignty.

In the 1962 war, China has captured both NEFA and Aksai Chin. But later China returned NEFA but kept Aksai Chin.

Currently China's policy of stepped up in Arunachal Pradesh, conflict in Doklam which is very close to Siliguri corridor and conflict in Galwan (Eastern Ladakh) poses serious sovereignty threats to India.

China is also growing its influence in South Asia by growing engagement with Indian neighbours. Through BRI and debt diplomacy, China is growing its footprint in India's neighbours which is diluting India's effort to emerge as

the leader of South Asia and
integration of South Asia as a
regional bloc.

Chinese BRI project is passing
through India's friend Baltistan eg:
CBE corridor connecting Kashgar in
China to Gwadar port in Pakistan.

China also encircling India
in the Indian Ocean region by
String of pearls strategy.

Thus India has also taken
many steps like SAGAR, IORA, IONS
in Indian Ocean. India is going
for engagement and containment
of China. According to Vijay Eerkhale
(former Ambassador) Armed coexistence
is the new modus vivendi.

SECTION-B

Write the following question in about 150 words.

Q.5 (a)

Discuss India's role in establishing NEIO.

(10 marks, 150 words)

New International Economic Order (~~NEIO~~) (NEIO) is an alternative economic order to liberal world order proposed by the Global South.

India's role in the drive to work with NEIO is extremely engaging. India through NAM platform has focused on NEIO by building coalition of developing countries.

Because of India's active engagement in NAM, India earned the title of trade union leader.

India in UNSC presidency has tried to set the agenda

for NIBO. India focused on aid to the developing countries in context of infra. development, tarriff protection, technology transfer and fund transfer to adapt to climate change.

Bunder through the platforms like G20, Voice of Global South Summit, EBSA platforms focused on reforming liberal world order by bringing the concerns of the global south - thus pushing reform for NIBO.

However, ~~NIBO~~ NIBO is not yet fully established. There are partial successes eg! stakeholder capitalism at Cornwall consensus. But India need to push for NIBO with the help of global south, to fully realise its goal.

Q.5 (b)

Write a short note on the Paris club

(10 marks, 150 words)

Paris Club is a small grouping which gives security guarantee to any country to resolve Balance of payment crisis with the IMF.

IMF helps in resolving balance of payment crisis by giving loan ~~frame~~ along with conditionalities.

Paris Club help in resolving the BOP crisis by taking the security guarantee of that particular country facing the BOP crisis. This helps in getting the loan or monetary support from IMF with the help of which it

can come out of the BOP crisis.

Recently Pont Club helped Sri Lanka
to come out of its BOP crisis. Though
India is not a member to this
club it helped Sri Lanka by
taking guarantee and providing
line of credit

India should try to become part
of this club because of its
economic advantages.

Q.5 (c)

Challenges for India in the emerging New World Order

(10 marks, 150 words)

Candidates
must not write
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The new world order is defined by the heightened geopolitical rivalry between USA and China.

This has resulted into multipolarity like Russian aggression in East Europe, Chinese assertiveness in East Asia, Israel conflict in West Asia and IRAN response.

This poses significant challenges to India in maintaining ties with all the major players. Since India focuses on strategic autonomy through multiple alignment it made India's job of balancing challenging.

Eg: India want to balance relations with both Israel

and Iran, but because of the rivalry the balancing is tough.

The country's cooperation with Russia is ~~not~~ not prospering because of the US sanctions on Russia. USA wants India to become its ally, but India cannot leave its strategic autonomy.

India continues to follow appeasement to China, because we cannot change our neighbours. This is an irritant in deepening our ties with west.

Thus more than cold war politics, we need strategic autonomy today to navigate the choppy waters of new world order geopolitics.

Q.5 (d)

Discuss the significance of SCO for India in achieving its objectives in the region.
(10 marks, 150 words)

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a
china led regional grouping in
Eurasian region.

SCO grouping involves the
global powers like china and
Russia along with Central Asian
Republics.

Due to the presence of
Central Asian Republics in the
grouping, SCO is significant
for ~~beating~~ strengthening ties with
Central Asia. Machindor - central
Asia is heartland to control the
world Island.

The regional security platform
like SCO-RATS helps in cooperation
for counter terrorism in the

region. It help India in combating terrorism in the region and secure Indian territory like Jammu & Kashmir.

The region is famous for Golden Crescent which results in drug trade - SIO platform helps in checking cross border illegal trade

The economic engagement with the groups helps bolster our connect central Asia policy.

However because of the presence of China, the platform is defunct of the Rivalry. The Pakistani presence ~~hinders~~ thwarts any meaningful actions by India in west Asia.

SIO has become more of a platform to check the rise of China - India than any meaningful cooperation.

Q.5 (e)

Write a short note on- Vienna convention 1961.

(10 marks, 150 words)



Candidates
must not write
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Q.6 (a)

Mention India's interests in the Indian Ocean region. Examine its role as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean region.
(15 marks, 200 words)

Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is a significant region which has emerged as important geo-economic, geo-strategic and geopolitical sphere.

According to Alfred T Mahan
One who controls the seas controls the world. In this context, India's interest in the IOR is rising apart from securing its national interest.

IOR is important economically, as major shipping routes and Sea Lines of Communication (SLOC) passes through it. It contains important choke points like Persian Gulf (G. of Hormuz),

Red Sea (H of Bab el Mandeb), through which most of India's oil shipments pass through (important for Energy Security)

IOR also emerged as arena of Non conventional Security threats.

- eg: Piracy in the Arabian Sea (Somalia), climate change and rise of sea level threatening India's islands (Andaman, Lakshadweep).

with the Israel-Hamas war, the Houthis' attack on Red Sea also raised conventional security concerns in the region.

India emerged as the net security provider in the region. India's vision of SAHAR (security and growth of all in the region) important for peace and security in IOR.

India is part of IONS (Indian Ocean Naval Symposium) where the navies of the littoral states coordinate and cooperate together.

India is part of IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association) which is important for both conventional and non conventional threats in the region.

India is part of QUAD which is an important Security platform in the IOR.

With the help of all such groupings India is able to emerge as net security provider in the region.

Q.6 (b)

Discuss the economic issues in India- China relations.

(15 marks, 200 words).

Candidates
must not write
on this margin

Though, India-China are seen as strategic competitors in South Asia, they have huge economic dependence (Complex interdependence - Joseph Nye)

China has emerged recently as the biggest trading partner of India, however the balance of trade is significantly tilted in favour of China. India has a huge trade deficit with China.

Thus rather than economic interdependence (Thomas Friedman) which could have led to peace between the two, it is economic dependence.

cheap Chinese products which are compared to Indian products

are flooded in Indian market.
This poses significant competition to
domestic industries.

India has dependence on
China for critical minerals (semiconductor
silicon chips, lithium for ~~car~~
battery), Active pharmaceutical
ingredients (for pharmaceuticals),
due to which India's imports from
China is more than India's
exports to China.

Due to this huge import dependence
our forex reserves are declining
which poses significant threat
to our economic security.

It is important in this
context to diversify our economy.
As a result India is signing

Free trade agreements with various
other partners. eg: ASEAN FTA, FTA
with UAE, RFTA etc. to reduce
the dependence on China.

This could help India to
take effective stand on border
issues with China. eg: In Galwan
conflict, India could push back
the China presence from Eastern
Ladakh.

India need to utilise the current
China plus One strategy to attract
FDI from USA, EU to India.
from China. As today no
relationship can move forward on
a single track (G2H). B2B and
P2P should also be strengthened.

Q.6 (c)

India's approach to the Indo-Pacific illustrates the adaptability of Indian Foreign Policy in changing geopolitics of the region. Analyse the statement. (20 marks, 250 words)

Candidates
must not write
on this margin

Indo-Pacific concept was first given by former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe, who called for the dynamic coupling of the ~~two~~ oceans — Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean.

India's approach to Indo Pacific is highlighted by PM speech in Shanghai dialogue, where it is "Indo-Pacific Architecture" against USA vision which excludes China. This reflects India's continuity of India's foreign policy of appeasement to China.

However, with growing tensions with China and assertiveness of China in Indo Pacific like South China

Sea dispute, String of pearls, India has adopted a shift in its foreign policy.

India started engagement with QUAD a multilateral grouping between India, USA, Japan and Australia.

This is perceived by China as anti-Chinese platform and dubbed by China as "Asian NATO".

India's started deep engagement with the Indian Ocean Island states
eg:- Maldives, Seychelles, Mauritius.

India changed its look East policy to ~~at~~ East policy and having a deep engagement with ASEAN.

The engagement has evolved from economic to defense
eg:- India's BRAHMOS missile to Philippines.

India is adapting to the changing geopolitics in the region by defense engagement with USA - (India is ~~not~~ no more hesitant with USA).

eg: the recent defense agreements like BECA, COMCASA & LBMOA would help India to act as net security provider in the Indo-Pacific.

India is working with Japan for infrastructure projects eg: Development of Sri Lanka west Terminal port.

India is part of multiple platforms like IORA, IONS etc which marks shift in India's foreign policy from non-alignment to multiple alignment.

~~However~~ Though, India's approach to Indo Pacific illustrates its adaptability in foreign policy (as discussed), however there are elements of continuity of past like heritage to completely go off 'Appeasement of China' eg: inclusive architecture of Indo Pacific.

India pursues its earlier form of non alignment in the form of multiple Alignment to maintain its strategic autonomy. However, strategic autonomy should not be the end in itself it should be means and national interest is end.

Thus, India has to continue evolving its Indo Pacific strategy to shift the geopolitical changes in the region.

Q.7 (a)

Discuss the challenges to the current world order.

(15 marks, 200 words).

Candidates
must not write
on this margin

The current world order is in the cusp of change. From USA unipolar world order it is either resulting into multipolar or bipolar world order.

This change is because of the challenges in the current world order i.e. challenge to the USA hegemony.

According to Graham Allison there is inevitability of war between the status quo power and the revisionist power (Thucydides Trap).

China is revisionist power which is challenging US hegemony in multilateral institutions (BRICS, ADB), South China Sea

(increasing freedom of navigation),
geopolitically (increased engagement),
geoeconomically (BRI) and
geostrategically (decrease power gap
between India & China & USA)

As a result, China is challenging
the USA liberal world order by
replacing it with China's controlled
capitalism.

Due to the decline of US Hegemony
by external threat like China and
internal threat like US protectionism,
there is rise of multipolarity.

There are multiple poles
emerging which is replacing the
liberal world order with Westphalian
world order giving way to BOP
powers. eg: increase in conflicts
across Europe and Africa like

Russia-Ukraine war and Israel-Hamas conflict.

According to Samuel P Huntington the threat to US hegemony from sinic civilisation (China) or Islamic civilisation. The threat is materialising because of China-Iran Axis which is threatening security of Middle East.

This has resulted in decreasing the influence of USA to dictate the world order. The multilateral institutions are collapsing e.g. WTO is dysfunctional, UN is ~~unable~~ facing crisis of legitimacy.

Thus, India along with USA and other countries should try to protect the liberal world order starting from UN Reforms.

Q.7 (b)

Discuss India's stance on the subject of reforms in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), and explain the approach the country is taking in this regard.

(15 marks, 200 words).

Candidates
must not write
on this margin

UN is not created to take humanity
to heaven but to protect humans
from hell - Dag Hammarskjöld

UNSC is the core body
of UN which is responsible for
collective security. It is based on
the idea of liberal institutionalism
which is based on the notion
that institutions convert jungle into
zoo.

However due to lack of UNSC
reforms, it is facing crisis of
legitimacy. India is pushing for
UNSC reforms for long time. It range
from structural reform to functional
reforms.

structural reforms of UNSC (by
India) includes increasing the

representation of UNSC members.
It includes widening the permanent
membership by including India and
representation to Africa, Latin
America.

India also pushed for veto
reforms. India wants either to
done away with veto outrightly,
or to reduce its scope of
usage / or giving overriding
powers to UNGA. Some veto
makes the UN dysfunctional, thus
veto reforms is *sine qua non*.

Initially India was pushing
the reforms alone (bilaterally)
but now India is partnered with
Japan, Germany & Brazil as G4 group
to put forward its reforms.

Recently India reflected that the 'Intergovernmental negotiation' is not working fine and leading to delays. Thus India proposed to go back to "Text based negotiation" for UNSC reforms.

India garnered the support of the Global South ~~like~~ ^{including} Africa to support each other's claims. India supports 1.69 groups for increasing representation.

India's strategic partnership with global powers like Russia, USA, France, UK help in getting the Permanent membership. But China act as a severe threat.

To make UN relevant, UNSC reforms is a must and India should continue to do so.

Q.7 (c)

How does the US approach the current world order in the recently released National Security Strategy (NSS). Examine how the same makes India a crucial partner of the US in changing political dynamics. (20 marks, 250 words)

In the recently released 'National Security Strategy' by USA it sees China as the only competitor and Russia as irritant.

US approach of current world order as a threat from China, which will challenge the liberal world order and US hegemony. Thus, US focus on Asia pivot policy to shift its focus to Indo Pacific to contain China and ensure its peaceful rise.

USA is redefining its strategy in the region (Indo-Pacific). The earlier hub-and-spoke security alliance system in Western Pacific is being weakened by

Chinese Eastern expansionism and assertiveness in East Asia.

US supports Japan ending its historical pacifism, US supports Taiwan to prevent any threat from China, US platform like EPBF, Quad and Aukus to check China, militarily, economically and larger geographically.

In this context, it makes India a crucial partner of the US in Indo Pacific. India fits in US strategy as a "swing state" and a balancer to prevent China rise.

India's strategic location in the Indian Ocean and its continental connectivity with China makes India a perfect balancer for China.

USA has established strategic partnership with India. It has extended support by 2005 civil nuclear deal. According to us a nuclear armed India is a better balance than non nuclear India.

Today India & US have multiple cooperation in defense, science and technology, multilateral programs etc. USA is India's second largest trading partner.

This could help India to emerge as a strong competitor to China. India could reduce its economic dependence from China (dependency). The defense agreements with USA (LEMOA, BBCA) help India to develop its

military capability to check Chinese incursions both along border and sea.

USA grand strategy is to maintain BOP (Balance of power) in other regions and maintain regional hegemony in Northern America (Nearshores).

Thus India acts a perfect partner through which it can maintain BOP in Eurasia and prevent rise of China. This would help us to maintain its hegemony and dictate the rule based world order.

Further, India understands this and that is why it focuses on strategic autonomy and does not want to be ally of the West (USA).