

prosperity.

Q. 3 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (20)

The sudden outbreak of hostilities between India and Pakistan on 10 May 2025 marked a watershed moment in the history of South Asian conflicts. Unlike previous encounters, this confrontation was not confined to the roar of tanks or the thunder of artillery. At the very outset, as Indian squadrons approached, Pakistan's advanced air-defence system shot down five Rafales before they could even cross into its airspace, a decisive blow that stunned military observers. Yet, Pakistan did not limit its response to defensive manoeuvres; in a swift and calibrated retaliation, its missile batteries and long-range artillery struck selected military installations, forcing the Indian capital into an unexpected blackout that paralyzed communications and spread panic in New Delhi.

However, the greater surprise came immediately afterward when Pakistan, rather than escalating the conventional battle, opened an invisible front in the digital domain. Alongside these air and artillery victories, simultaneously unveiled a sophisticated cyber-warfare strategy. In a matter of hours, its cyber units disabled enemy command systems, blinded satellite networks, silenced air defence radars, and disrupted encrypted communications. The battlefield, for the first time, shifted from the plains and skies to a hidden theatre of codes and signals, where no further gunpowder was spent yet entire formations were rendered ineffective.

The effect was staggering. The remaining Rafales never dared to fly again. As the magnitude of the technological disruption became apparent, nations that once stood aloof during Indo-Pak crises began to speak. Western powers, wary of further escalation, criticized India's aggressive posture, while regional powers expressed open support for Pakistan. For the first time in decades, India found itself diplomatically cornered and without a credible ally to defend its stance.

Even more remarkable was the transformation in the Middle East. In a region where Pakistan had often been treated with disdain, Arab leaders, deeply impressed by its mastery of digital warfare and its disciplined conduct, began to regard it as a formidable power. What had long been a bruised national pride was suddenly restored. This reawakening of respect also strengthened strategic partnerships throughout the region. Pakistan's preparedness demonstrated that the future of war lies not merely in conventional might but in the ability to dominate the digital arena, where battles are fought invisibly yet decided decisively.

Questions:

- Q1. Why did Arab leaders change their attitude towards Pakistan after the conflict?
- Q2. How did the blackout in Delhi influence the psychological state of India during the conflict?
- Q3. If Pakistan had not launched digital warfare after the missile retaliation, how would the conflict have turned out differently?
- Q4. Compare and contrast the role of traditional military force and digital warfare as described in the passage. Which one proved more decisive and why?
- Q5. If the events of 10 May 2025 were to be viewed as a turning point, what does the episode reveal about the changing meaning of "power" in the 21st century?

Comprehension: OC

Ans # 01 Arab leaders got impressed by Pakistan's strategic handling of the conflict and how it used conventional as well as non conventional methods as a retaliatory measure against India. Arab world regained its lost status in the Arab world after this war, which led them change their attitude towards Pakistan.

Ans # 02 The blackout in Delhi came after Pakistanis use of cyber warfare tactics where it hacked most of India's systems, disabled communication units and satellite networks. This disrupted India's communication system, pressuring them psychologically regarding their next steps, that left India in a dilemma between attacking and not attacking. Pakistan's preparedness and strategic response was something Indians had never imagined which gave them a psychological blow as well.

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Ans #03 If Pakistan had not launched ~~the~~ ^{digital} warfare timely, the conflict would

have taken a deadly shape, escalating into a nuclear war. As both India and Pakistan are nuclear powers, any undeterred conventional warfare between them would have led to a ~~catastrophic~~ nuclear catastrophe. This would have far reaching effects for not only India and Pakistan but also for the ~~whole~~ ^{South Asian} region.

Ans #04 Traditional military force comprises of weapons like missiles, drones, gun fire, bombs (weapons of mass destruction); be it atomic or nuclear, ^{and} artillery etc. While digital warfare includes cyberattacks, ^{digital} espionage, disabling the enemy's ability to carry out effective retaliatory strikes and disruption communication of the enemy. It is also known for silencing air defence radars or

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devices used for detecting the enemy's attack. In the context of India and Pakistan, the strategic use of digital warfare by Pakistan against India was a calibrated and well thought out approach. This attack disabled India's ability to attack Pakistan or detect its attacks. Traditional warfare ~~was~~ in this case would have caused greater destruction with uncertain results.

Ans # 05 The India-Pakistan war highlighted a major shift in power. ~~sub~~ Pakistan's use of digital warfare techniques highlight^{ed} the ~~emerging~~ trend of smart power rather than ~~hard~~ power like ~~the~~. This highlights the changing meaning of power in the 21st century, that ~~has~~ taken a new shape in the form of cyber (digital) warfare where conventional weapons or tactics are ~~not~~ used and the enemy is defeated strategically.

Q.7. Translate the following into English, keeping in view the idiomatic/figurative expression. (10)

مارگریٹ ایک عمر رسیدہ خاتون جو لندن کے ایمبیسکنٹ ٹرین سٹیشن پر روزانہ صرف اس لیے جاتی ہے تاکہ اپنے مرحوم شوہر اوسوالڈ لارنس کی آواز میں "مانسڈا گیپ" کا اعلان سن سکے۔ یہ اعلان 1970 کی دہائی میں ریکارڈ کیا گیا تھا اور اوسوالڈ کی وفات کے بعد مارگریٹ اسے سن کر اپنے شوہر کی قربت محسوس کرتی تھی۔ 2012 میں جب یہ آواز الیکٹرانک ریکارڈنگ سے بدل دی گئی، تو مارگریٹ نے ٹرانسپورٹ فار لندن سے رابطہ کیا۔ جب ادارے کو اس کے جذبات کا علم ہوا، تو انہوں نے ایمبیسکنٹ سٹیشن پر اس کے شوہر کی آواز دوبارہ بحال کر دی۔ اب ہر روز وہاں اسی محبت بھری آواز میں اعلان ہوتا ہے۔

Best of Luck for CSS2026

Translation.

Margaret ~~is~~ an aged woman who goes to the London Embankment train station daily, just to listen to the announcement, "Mind the gap" in the voice of his late husband, Oswald Lawrence. This announcement was recorded in 1970s and after the death of Oswald, Margaret used to listen to it daily, to feel the intimacy of her husband. In 2012, Margaret ~~had~~ contacted Transport for London, after she witnessed a changed ~~is~~ voice due to electronic recording. When the agency came to ~~is~~ know about her emotions, it reinstalled her husband's voice ~~in~~ ^{at} the Embankment station. ^{Now} Every day, there ~~is~~ is an announcement in the same loving voice.

→ TC

ICJ opens the door for affected states to seek restitution, compensation, restoration of their ecosystems

The International Court of Justice's landmark advisory opinion that states are obligated under international law to tackle climate change is a seismic shift in the global fight against climate catastrophe. By unequivocally declaring that states failing to curb fossil fuels and protect the climate system commit an "internationally wrongful act", the world's highest court has transformed moral rhetoric into legal obligation. For vulnerable nations, the ruling is a vindication of their long-running complaint that developed countries owe the rest of the world for causing the climate crisis.

The ICJ opens the door for affected states to seek restitution, compensation, and restoration of their ecosystems. While proving direct causality remains complex, the court insists it is not impossible. The opinion also explicitly names fossil fuel subsidies, exploration licences and corporate deregulation as potential violations, making the transition to renewable energy a requirement, rather than an optional policy. The court also notes that "a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a precondition for the enjoyment of many human rights", which means that, at least in theory, countries that fail to address climate change are human rights violators.

Unfortunately, any law is only as strong as its enforcement mechanism, even more so for international law, where violators such as the US and Israel routinely walk out of treaties, rather than accept adverse decisions. Even before the US withdrew from most climate-related agreements under President Trump, it had long disregarded international laws that conflicted with "American interests", whether related to climate, conflict, or commerce.

Still, at the bare minimum, the non-binding opinion should push the EU and countries that claim to hold human rights in high esteem into increasing their investment in climate change mitigation, while strengthening the case for some form of reparations, whether direct cash transfers or some form of preferential treatment for the worst-hit countries.

~~Precis # 6.~~

Climate crisis is a human rights crisis.

The International Court of Justice has ~~ruled~~ ^{protection from} that climate change is a fundamental human right.

~~It~~ further said that it is the legal duty of developed states to protect these rights and those who do not take measures ~~are~~ committing

serious human rights violation. This advisory opinion acts as a ray of hope to ~~challenge~~ the crimes of climate change committed by the developed states.

But such rulings are weak as they have no enforcement mechanism, which leads the developed states to follow the ~~decision~~ that are in their

favor and disregard others. Despite its weak enforcement, the ruling should at least garner

some support or financing for the ~~vulnerable~~ states to ensure their survival and protection.