

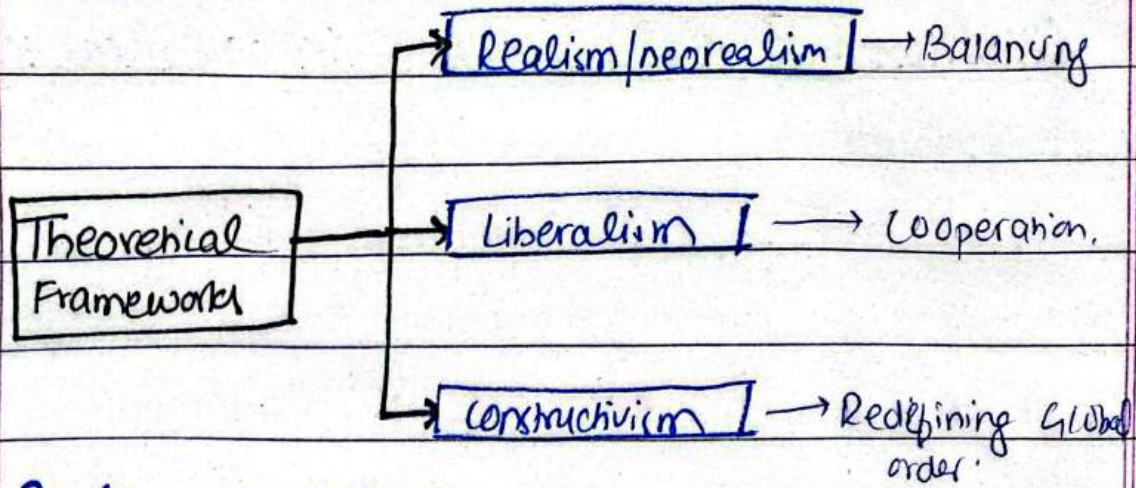
QUESTION # 8 BRICS AND THE WORLD ORDER

1- INTRODUCTION:

The world is ushering into a new era with rise in regional organizations. The long-standing unipolarity of the United States of America (USA) is waning due to expansion of multilateral organizations like BRICS and SCO. It can be seen as an act of balancing, or cooperation or resistance to Western-led international system according to different theoretical perspectives of International relations (IR). This multilateralism is changing from rule-based system to consensus based decision-making. The new multilateralism and expansion of SCO and BRICS is posing challenge to US-led international order, but the change will take decades to manifest into reality.

2- THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON EXPANSION OF BRICS AND SCO:

Three major theoretical perspectives explain the expansion of BRICS and SCO. They explain the 'why' of the process through three different theories.



a- Realism / Neo Realism:

Neo realism states that states are primary actors, seeking power and security in anarchic system. SCO and BRICS are seen as balancing against external ^(China) intervention in central Republics and against hegemony of dollar and western-led economic system.

b- Neo-Liberalism:

Institutionalism is a key feature of liberalism and neo-liberalism. It supports that international institutes can facilitate cooperation by creating rules, reducing transaction cost, and providing information. Both groups are formal institutions with legal frameworks and mechanism for cooperation. For example, BRICS New Development Bank is institutionalized to

work as IMF or World Bank for member countries.

Likewise, ^{the} counter-terrorism structures of SCO facilitates regional cooperation on issues like extremism, separatism and terrorism.

C- Constructivism:

Constructivism says that international reality is ~~structurally~~ socially constructed by ideas, norms and identities. Both BRICS and SCO are formed on shared identity centered around multipolarity, non-interference in internal affairs and inclusive development. This highly contrast with the Western-led Liberalism. Hence, the term 'Global south' is becoming powerful and expansion, shows how these organizations are ready to expand beyond South Asia, making it more inclusive.

3- OLD VS NEW MULTILATERALISM:

New multilateralism is an alternative to old (liberal) multilateralism as it champions the interests of Global South. It provides platforms for economic and security cooperation outside perceived control of Western

power. The expansion shows the neediness of these platform to expand beyond horizons and become more inclusive.

Old Multilateralism

- 1- The old multilateralism is led by Western power mainly USA.
- 2- It focuses on liberal democracy, human rights, universal norms and free trade.
- 3- United Nations (UNGA + UNSC) and Bretton Woods Institutions (IMF, WB, WTO, NAR) are its institutions.
- 4- Basis of cooperation is rooted in conditional rules.
- 5- Its main purpose is to maintain status quo.

New Multilateralism

- The New multilateralism is led by regional platform like BRICS and SCO.
- Its core values include sovereignty, non-interference in internal matters, multipolarity and development-first approach.
- Institutions of BRICS, SCO and Belt ^{and} Road Initiative (China-led initiatives) belong to this category.
- It promotes non-conditional cooperation.
- It aims to reform and restructure global order to reflect interests of majority.

4. CHALLENGE TO US-LED INTERNATIONAL ORDER:

The expansion of BRICS and SCO whether challenge the US-led international order is debatable. The IR scholars have consensus that it signals a transition in international order. The expansion is aimed at eroding US dominance. At economic level, these institutions have been promoting de-dollarization since 2014 through promoting bilateral trade in local currencies. Moreover, BRICS is establishing institutions (NDB etc) parallel to Western institutions (WB). At geopolitical level, SCO, led by China and Russia, is explicitly aiming to counter NATO's presence in Central Republic. It is promoting competing norms like sovereignty and non-interference that challenges the norms of liberal world order. However, at current pace and stage, 'Global South' is pushing for reforms multipolarity and greater influence. It would take decades to develop into a full-fledged threat to US hegemony. Moreover, internal bilateral conflicts (India ^{and} China) is also a hurdle to deal with before

progressing at full speed.

5- GLOBAL WORLD ORDER DEBATE:

The expansion of BRICS and SCO can be seen as an attempt of the Global South to strive for a replacement of US-led world order. It is also powerfully contributing into the creation of multipolar world order from a unipolar world order post cold-war. This new world order is characterized by:

- i- Fragmentation: coexistence of multiple overlapping institutions like NATO/G7, BRICS, SCO, G20 etc.
- ii- Increased Agency: providing greater space to middle power to hedge along with the bloc that aligns with their national interests.
- iii- Contestation. It is resulting in a competition of ideas and norms over who sets the rules of global governance.

Hence, the world order is shifting from post-coldwar unipolarity to multipolarity.

6- CONCLUSION:

International order is in transition.

phase. The rise and expansion of multilateral regional organizations like BRICS and SCO are explicitly challenging the hegemony of the Western-led international order. ^{neo}Realism defines this process as balancing, ^{neo}liberalism as a cooperation based on shared values, and constructivism as redefining the rules of global order and promotion of shared identity. However, it yet remains to see how it will prove to be a challenge to US hegemony as right now the Global South is working for having larger participation in global arena and a shift from uni-polarity to multipolarity.

X ————— X

QUESTION NO 5 : NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH

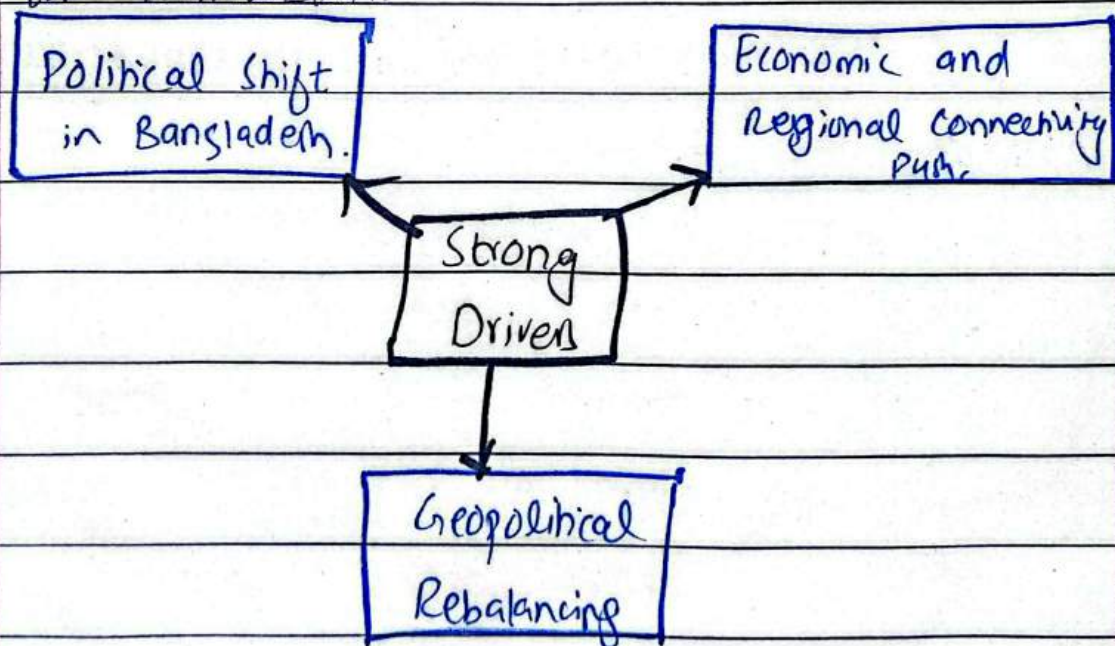
1- OPENING STATEMENT:

The ouster of E Sheikh Haseena Wajid by student protest provided an opportunity to Bangladesh and Pakistan to ^{revise} ~~revisit~~ their bilateral ties. The potential for normalization of relations between both countries remain very high. This shift is largely driven by recent

political changes in Bangladesh and its changing geopolitical interests in South Asia. While decades of historical mistrust remain a significant barrier, prioritizing dialogue and cooperation on economic and strategic front can change the future course.

2- POTENTIAL FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS:

The potential for normalization of relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan on economic and strategic front are high. However, the chances for genuine historical reconciliation are moderate. Following high potential factors are strong drivers for normalization.



a- Political Shift in Bangladesh.

The removal of Sheikh Hasena Wajid government is itself an opportunity for Pakistan. The previous government has maintained a hostile stance towards Pakistan while allying with India. The ~~attar~~ ouster has opened a window for foreign policy recalibration which can be aided by the visible and immediate openness of Interim Government to dialogue with Pakistan.

b- Economic and Regional Connectivity Push:

Trade has emerged as the core focus and bilateral trade has already surged between both countries. This can be seen in the resumption of Seaborne trade between both countries for the first time in so long and easing of travel restrictions and security clearance requirements.

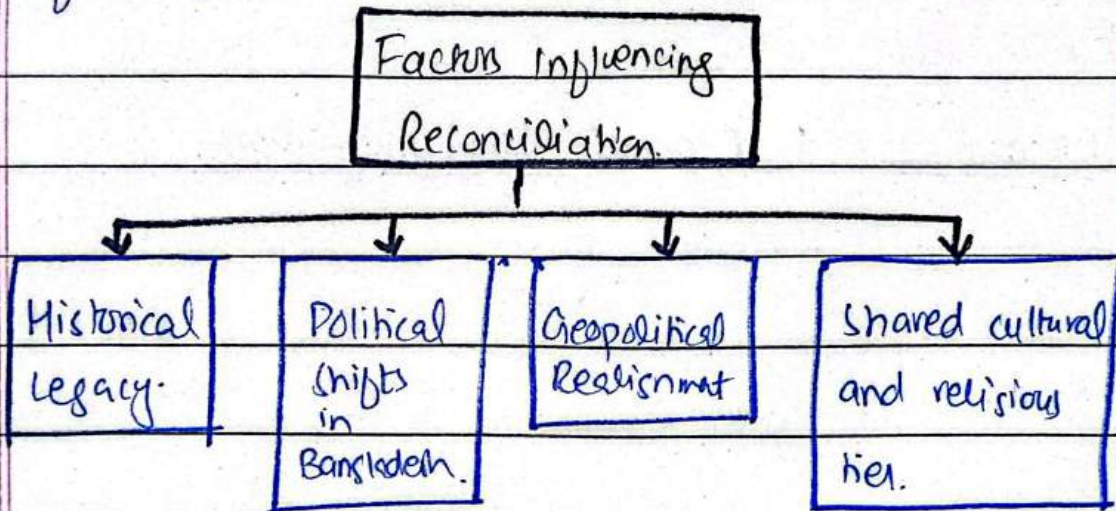
c- Geopolitical Rebalancing:

Sheikh Hasena's Ouster has also changed the geopolitical stance of Bangladesh, on regional dynamics. Bangladesh was closely allied with India under previous government

but now it is pursuing a more non-aligned and diversified foreign policy. Its engagement with Pakistan is a strategic move to balance regional dynamics.

3- KEY FACTORS INFLUENCING RECONCILIATION:

There are many key factors that influence the reconciliation of Bangladesh and Pakistan.



a- Historical Legacy:

The major barrier in the way of reconciliation in the 1971 Liberation war trauma. This historical event has inculted bitterness about Pakistan in Bangladesh. The initial refusal of Pakistan to acknowledge Bangladesh and apologize for its warlike actions.

b- Political Shifts in Bangladesh:

The fall of previous government is also a factor that created the opportunity for reconciliation of both countries. Sheikh Hasena's government was Pro-India and was hostile towards Pakistan. Her ouster created a vacuum where the foreign policy of Bangladesh was recalibrated by Interim government.

c- Geopolitical Realignment:

Both countries are looking to diversify their foreign policy and regional partnerships. A closer relation between Dhaka and Islamabad is seen as a strategic balancer against regional power dynamics. Moreover, enormous potential of bilateral trade (potentially upto \$5 billion) are the strong driven influence rapprochement to move towards deep economic integration.

d- Shared Cultural and Religious Ties:

Despite separation, both Bangladesh and Pakistan share a common cultural and religious heritage. This sense of communal commonality can be

leveraged through academic, cultural and people-to-people contact. Hence, this shared cultural identity ~~can~~ is also a bonding factor that can influence reconciliation positively.

4- ADDRESSING HISTORICAL ISSUES TO REINFORCE TIES:

For a

smooth trajectory of bilateral relations, both countries must address the lingering historical issues which can derail the process of reconciliation. This is based on a multi-level approach involving following steps.

Way Forward

- Official Acknowledgement and Apology
- Resolving Post-war Issues
- Focusing on Future Cooperation
- Shared Learning

a. Official Acknowledgement and apology:

Bangladesh

has long demanded from Pakistan to officially acknowledge the atrocities of 1971 war. Pakistan can acknowledge the historical truths of 1971

war, even if it is difficult. This would heal the wounds of Bangladeshi nationals and Pakistan would gain a high moral ground and appreciation from the world.

b- Resolving Post war Issues:

After the war of 1971, the longstanding issues between Pakistan and Bangladesh are repatriation and settlement of 'stranded Pakistanis' and division of assets and liabilities. Though these issues have lost the significance but Pakistan can make efforts to compensate Bangladesh by deepening its economic integration with Dhaka and ensuring scholarships and employment opportunities to Bengalis.

c- Focusing on Future Cooperation:

Dhaka and Pakistan must not lose sight of what lies ahead. Both sides can continue to build momentum by prioritizing cooperation in non-political areas like economic cooperation, visa relaxation and cultural exchanges.

d- Shared Learning:

Both countries can work together on shared projects of agriculture and textile. Pakistan can share its expertise in agriculture and Bangladesh can share its successful garment export model. This will promote a sense of shared prosperity and goodwill.

5- CLOSING STATEMENT CONCLUSION:

The current diplomatic engagement of Dhaka and Islamabad holds a promising future for cooperation on both sides. The significant event that led to recalibration of foreign policy of Bangladesh was ouster of Pro-India government of Sheikh Hasena Wajid. The prospects of reconciliation for both countries are highly influenced by shared culture and religion, its historical legacy, political paradigm shift in Bangladesh, geopolitical realignment, and historical legacy. But for a smooth course ahead, both sides must address the lingering historical issues of 1971 war bitterness, division of assets and liabilities and changing the discourse of public from hostility to brotherhood. Bangladesh and Pakistan can return to relations.

of brotherhood with continuing the momentum in the direction of economic and strategic cooperation.

X ————— X

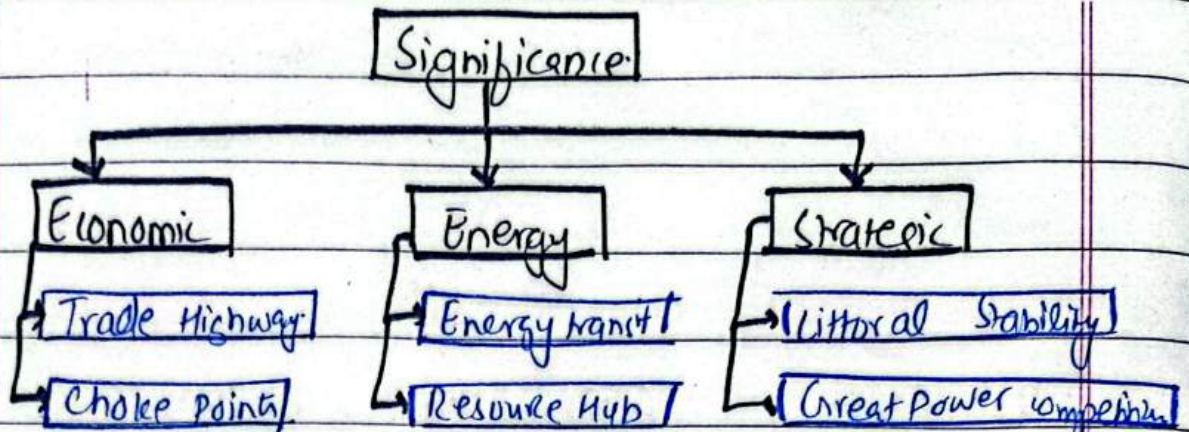
QUESTION # 3 : GEOSTRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF IOR AND REGIONAL SECURITY

1- INTRODUCTORY NOTE:

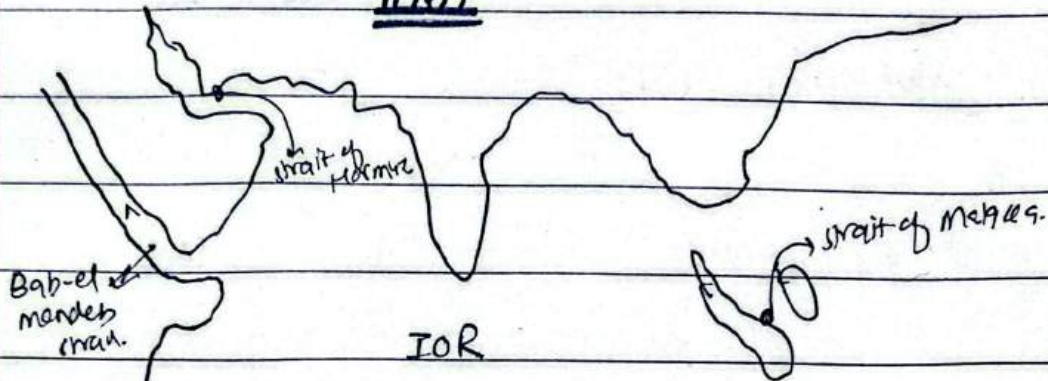
The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is significant for global and regional security. It is the global economic and energy life with over 70% of the trade passing through it. It has become a strategic point regarding regional security and recent engagement has turned it into ^{unholy} a nexus for economic and military influence. In 2025, IOR is characterized by increasing multipolarity, growing focus on maritime security, and an intensifying rivalry among major powers.

2- GEO-STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF IOR:

The significance of IOR is three folds i.e., economic, energy and strategic.



MAP



i- Economic Significance:

IOR is significant in terms

of Trade and economy.

a- Trade Highway: IOR contains sea lines of communication (SLOC) that connect Middle East and Africa to East Asian. These SLOCs handle around 70% of the world's bulk cargo.

b- Choke Points: The Ocean is guarded by vital maritime checkpoints like the Strait of Malacca, the Strait of Hormuz, and Bab-el-Mandeb Strait. These narrow passages are critical for global supply chains as any disruption

could severely impact the global supply chain.

ii- Energy Significance:

Because of its straits and surrounding African countries, the IOR is very vital for global supply chain of energy.

a- Energy Transit: IOR is the primary transit route for the $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of the world's oil shipments and 80 percent of the Indian imports of energy. Because of this, IOR plays an important role in global energy security.

b- Resource Hub: IOR is famously known for its 'Blue Economy' which is the capacity of a waterbody to be rich in fish stocks, mineral resources, and offshore oil and gas reserves. This makes it the center for global regional cooperation and competition.

iii- Strategic Significance:

Because of its geopolitical location, IOR has immense strategic significance for not only regional players but also for global ones.

a- Littoral Stability: The common security threats of

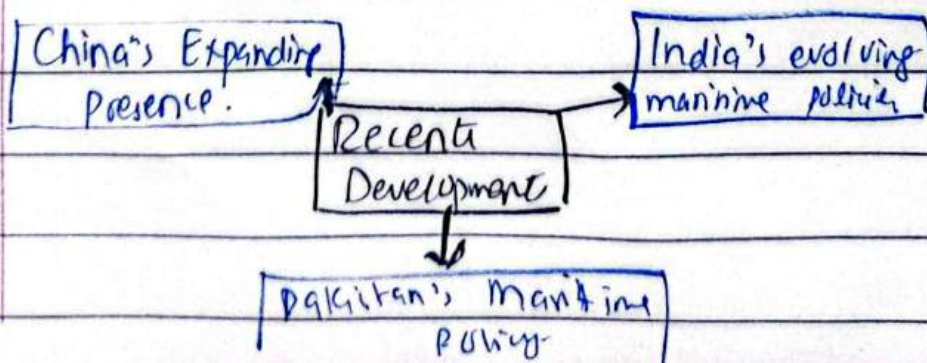
IOR include piracy, maritime terrorism, illegal fishing and drug trafficking - So, the stability of IOR directly impacts the developing economies of surrounding states and islands.

- b- Great Power Competition: IOR is at the centered meeting point of Pacific and Atlantic ocean which makes it an important strategic location. It is the arena where geopolitical and geo-economic interests of US, China, India and other major powers intersect.

3- ALTERING MARITIME SECURITY DYNAMICS IN 2025:

The

recent developments of regional actors like China, India and Pakistan has altered the concept of maritime security and its dynamic. Due to their actions, IOR has become a more competitive and militarized maritime security environment in 2025.



a. China's Expanding Presence:

The Chinese Initiative of 'The Strings of Pearls' and 'Dual-Use Strategy' is aimed at securing its SLOCs in IOR and project power in the most competitive environment of the world.

i- Infrastructure Footprint: Through Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China has established a strategic infrastructure by operating and investment in key ports of IOR. These key ports include Gwadar (Pakistan), Hambantota (Sri Lanka), and Djibouti. China is expanding its presence in IOR by establishing ports that possess dual use capabilities.

ii- Naval Projection and Intelligence: China has set up projects on island states like Maldives where it is increasingly deploying its advanced naval assets and for ^{anti-}piracy operations and escort missions. This directly challenges the maritime domain awareness of regional players.

China's expanding presence in IOR has intensified the security dilemma, leading to a naval arms race among its rivals.

b- India's Evolving Maritime Policies:

Seeing the militarization and increasing Chinese presence in IOR, India has intensified its naval presence also. It has evolved its maritime policy from SAGAR to MAHASAGAR because India views IOR as a primary sphere of influence.

- i- The MAHASAGAR Vision - 2025: The SAGAR Vision was introduced by ^{PM} Modi in 2015 and has now been evolved into MAHASAGAR Vision 2025. It aims to expand the area of influence of India in IOR towards the African coastline and promoting economic cooperation alongside security. This initiative is the result of security dilemma started by China and India is trying to counter Chinese naval presence.

c- Pakistan's Maritime Policy:

Pakistan is evolving its maritime policy from 'Blue economy' to 'Naval modernization'. It is focusing on tapping the resources and blue economy of IOR. Moreover, the Gwadar Port provides it a strategic deep sea port near Strait of Hormuz and it is

actively updating its naval capabilities to counter-
balance the expanding Indian naval capabilities.

4 CONCLUDING NOTE:

The Indian Ocean Region has a great significance for regional and global players. It is an important region in terms of trade, economy, energy transit and global power politics. Recent developments of regional powers like China, ~~that~~ India and players like Pakistan has further militarized this region and has made it more volatile and competitive now on. The dynamic is now defined by a 'Great Game at Sea' where each actor is trying to exert maximum influence in IOR. The consequence is the classic 'security dilemma' where a naval arms race has been started.

X ————— X