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## Comprehension Test for Bank Exams (SBI PO Mains, IBPS PO Mains, RBI Grade B)

### Passage No. 86

**Direction:** Study the following information carefully and answer the question given below.

**Paragraph 1.** Unlike Russia and China, who have sought to reform and even transform the US-led order, India has been quite content to integrate with the post-1991 order, albeit with perfunctory reforms. Consequently, neither was a post-unipolar world imagined, nor its contours fathomed. Operating under the comforting assumption of prolonged US preponderance, much of contemporary statecraft and geo-strategies have been formulated under such a world view. And, nothing has shaped India–US ties more than the rise of China.

**Paragraph 2.** But, this shared threat perception has always found itself at odds with the complex reality of US–China relations and the enduring characteristics of US–Pakistan relations. An optimistic framework for an Indian balance-of-power strategy has relied on a hypothesized replay of the old Indo–Soviet congruence in Asia and the subcontinent. Yet, unlike the old Cold War geo-strategy that was underpinned by leveraging fundamental cleavages in the international and regional systems, India’s US play has been crafted upon a more complex geopolitical landscape, yielding paradoxical outcomes. For instance, each successive China move with the US by Delhi has precipitated a proportional Pakistan and sub-continental countermove by Beijing. Significantly, most of these moves by China have not been detected by the US–India partnership, leaving Delhi worse off than when it started.

**Paragraph 3.** Until Trump’s victory, Delhi had been willing to absorb the costs. Perhaps, the premise was that a more enduring Indo–American strategic partnership would ultimately emerge to stabilize the sub-regional environment as well as provide options to bargain with China. The uncertainty around Trump’s South Asia policy suggests that Delhi’s bold policy is now even more of a gamble. Trump’s basic impulse to stabilize the great power setting of US–Russia–China, as well as a reluctance to heighten competition in non-core regions like the subcontinent will further complicate Delhi’s balancing strategies, even if Washington maintains general continuity on its India policy. Beyond

geopolitics, the shifting fulcrum of economic globalization from the West to the East will again challenge the dominant assumptions of the past two decades.

**Paragraph 4.** Curiously, unlike in China, Indian policymakers have not engaged in serious debates about the post-2008 global economy. Trump’s likely displacement of the old geo-economic approach (where the US evaluated economic choices through its global ambitions) towards a more national and allied-centered economic strategy (prioritizing socio-economic stability and the American middle class over ambitious geopolitics) will compel Delhi to muddle its way towards a changing economic order.

**Paragraph 5.** While all three would naturally frame and pursue their policy goals based on their intramural and regional contexts, the window for order-building and contribution to global governance by the non-Western world has been jarred open. As Dmitri Trenin recently suggested in the Global Times (22 February 2017), “China, India and Russia can build a core group to lead the order-building process.” Not only are there possibilities for influencing the orderly re-orientation of America’s global role, there is a necessity to stabilize the transition and channel the world order in more sustainable directions.

**Paragraph 6.** A central question for all three states is as to how they can ensure that a multipolar world retains elements of interdependence and multilateralism. As each have independent national interests—both material and ideational—in promoting such a polycentric order, the policy and academic discourse ought to now thoughtfully examine the diverse pathways that could be charted by Eurasia to promote regional and global stability.

**Questions:**

**1. Which of the following statements cannot be inferred from Paragraph 3?**

- A. India’s cost benefit analysis with reference to its relationship with USA pointed to more stability in its immediate vicinity.
- B. China has been a major factor in determining how far India has been willing to stretch when it comes to its relationship with US.
- C. US’s policies include focusing on regions it considers peripheral to its interests along with a need to maintain itself as the dominant player.
- D. There is a steady shift of economic power centers from the West to East and a sign of increasing economic globalization.
- E. With the regime change in US, there is a general state of uncertainty when it comes to it’s India policy.

**2. Which of the following sentences can be connected with Paragraph 4 to make a connection with Paragraph 5?**

- A. The continued economic benefits of a rising China for the rest of the world will largely mitigate any potential threat it poses to international security.
- B. The sustained military, political and economic ascension of China is increasingly viewed as a likely threat to international security.
- C. China's economic growth has continued at an unrivaled pace.
- D. Threats to international security generated by China's challenge to U.S. hegemony must be viewed more soberly, particularly given the uncertainty of China's 'rise'.
- E. An analysis of China's foreign policy suggests that its growth in power and influence will present a minimal threat to international security.

**3. Which of the following sentence/s is commensurate the statement, "China, India and Russia can build a core group to lead the order-building process" as mentioned in Paragraph 6?**

- I. India, China and Russia must give up their independent national interests in favor of reverting back to America led unilateralism.
- II. India, China and Russia must follow the tenets of Marxism as that would ensure the multi-polar world reaffirms the ideals of interdependence.
- III. India, China and Russia can work in tandem to ensure a smooth transition to a polycentric world order leading to a new world order.

- A. Only (II) is correct
- B. Only (III) is correct
- C. Both (I) and (III) are correct
- D. Both (I) and (II) are correct
- E. All are correct

**4. Which of the following statements can be inferred from the passage?**

- I. Under the new regime, the US is turning 'inwards' where its priorities are changing from a predominance of geo-politics to giving prominence to the American citizens.
- II. India foreign policy approach has been short sighted and did not see the need to include an alternative plan to US led unilateralism.
- III. The post-unipolar world order involves a shift towards new forms of global governance, interdependence, economic order among others.

- A. Only II is correct
- B. Only III is correct
- C. Both I and III are correct
- D. Both II and III are correct
- E. All are correct

**5. What does the author mean by the statement, “leaving Delhi worse off than when it started” as mentioned in Paragraph 2?**

- A. The US’s relations with Pakistan and China are complicated and India frequently finds itself entangled in the middle between the trio.
- B. India has steadily emerged as a key player in the sub-continent due to its growing balance of power as a result of gains on account of its strategic relations with the US.
- C. India-US relations have led to paradoxical results which has turned the sub-continent into a chessboard with China and Pakistan matching India’s moves by their countermoves.
- D. Both (A.) and (C.)
- E. None of these

**Correct Answers:**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
C	B	B	E	D

**Explanations:**



**1.** All the statements can easily be found in the paragraph.

India’s US policy is based on a large extent to its own balancing strategy along with the need for more stability in South Asian sub-continent with China too serving as a key factor. Also, with President Trump coming in, US’s India policy is in a state of uncertainty.

Lastly, the paragraph also mentions a shift of economic powers from West to East.

However, statement III is the opposite of what has been mentioned in the paragraph.

Hence **Option C** cannot be inferred.

**2.** Options A and C are related to economic growth only and do not fit in with the general tone of the two passages.

Option E presents the view that China’s ‘threat’ due to its rise is generally misinterpreted and will not pose a threat.

Option D too presents a similar view.

Both Options D and E are opposite the tone of the two passages.

Option B fits in perfectly.

Hence **option B** is correct.

**3.** Statement I is opposite to what has been stated and II are not mentioned anywhere in paragraph 6.

Statement III is clearly mentioned in lines 1 and 2.

Hence, **option B** is correct.

**4.** Statement I is mentioned in paragraph 4, lines 2 and 3, statement II is mentioned in paragraph 1, lines 1 and 2 and statement III is mentioned in paragraphs 5 and 6.

Hence, all options are true.

Thus, **option E** is correct.

**5.** Option A is mentioned in paragraph 2 sentence 1 and clearly states US's complex relations with China and Pakistan.

Similarly option C also mentions how India US relations have led to less than desired results where each move by Delhi is countered by Beijing.

Option B is opposite to what has been mentioned and is incorrect.

Hence, **option D** is the correct answer.



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