

GS Advanced Program 2023**Generic Booklet**

Test Name/Code/No. : ..

692018

Name			
Email ID			
Roll No.			
Mobile No.		Date	

Allotted Time : 60 Minutes**Instructions to Candidates -**

- There are 7 Questions in this Question paper.
- All Questions are Compulsory.
- For all updates, please visit the noticeboard -
<https://noticeboard.forumias.com/gsap-2023/>

Important -

- Answers must be attempted in the QCA Booklet only.
- To upload the Answer Copies please visit to "My Course" section on -
<https://academy.forumias.com/>
- Only those copies will be evaluated which will be submitted before the next class.

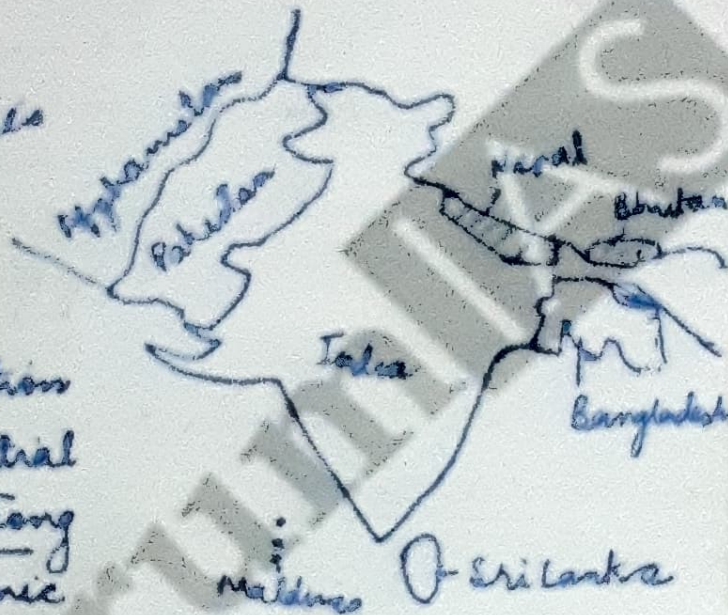
Q. No.	Grade/Score
1	
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Overall Grade/Score	

Start Writing Here

Q.1)

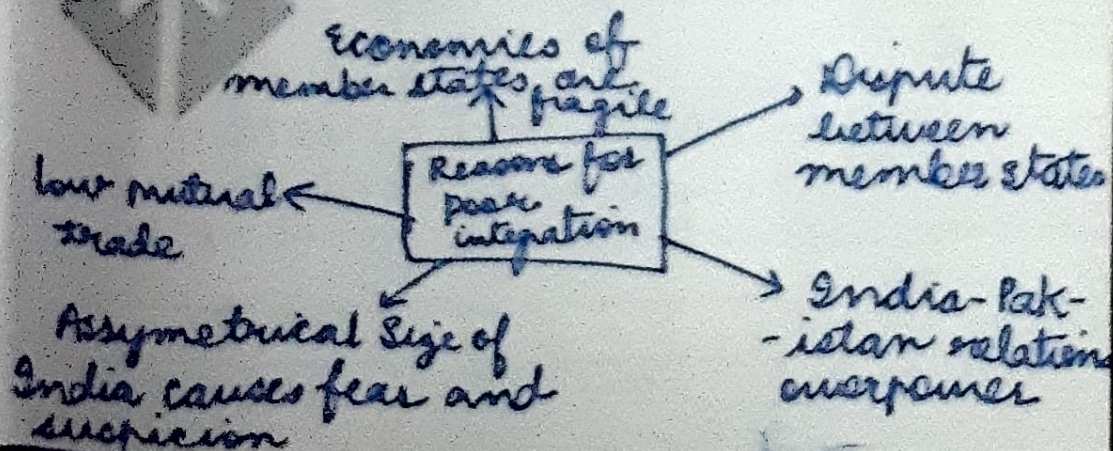
SAPRC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) was founded in 1985 to aid in economic development.

SAPRC countries constitutes approximately one fourth of world population and has potential to become a strong regional economic hub.



SAPRC MEMBERS

Despite this SAPRC is least economically integrated region in world -



These limitations in working of SAARC has led some experts to argue that it should be replaced by BIMSTEC.

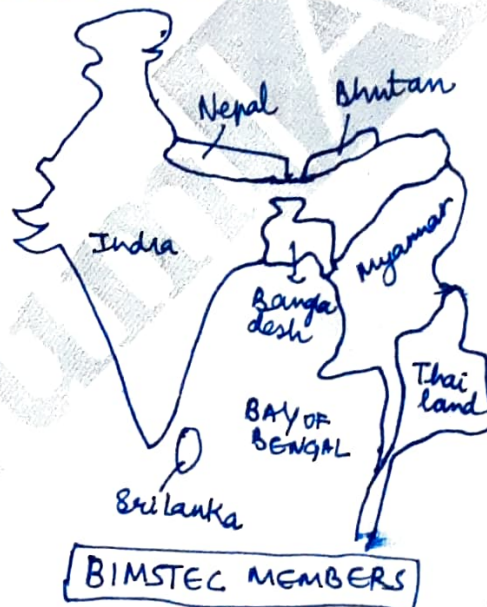
BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) was founded in 1997.

But BIMSTEC cannot replace SAARC →

(i) Its charter itself says it is merely a bridge between South Asia and ASEAN.

(ii) SAARC is result of organic unity and shared culture.

(iii) BIMSTEC can provide infrastructural connectivity where as SAARC has more potential.



Thus, both SAARC and BIMSTEC need to be revived and used to encourage cooperation. One cannot replace the other.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.2)

End of cold war in 1991 was marked by the disintegration of USSR. In order to recover from the loss of this ally, India formed relations between US and its allies in South East Asia.

LOOK EAST POLICY was launched by P.V. Narsimha Rao ~~to~~ in 1992 to -

← Increase cooperation
with South East
Asia

→ Limit
Chinese
Influence in
the region

The policy helped India achieve its economic and strategic objectives →

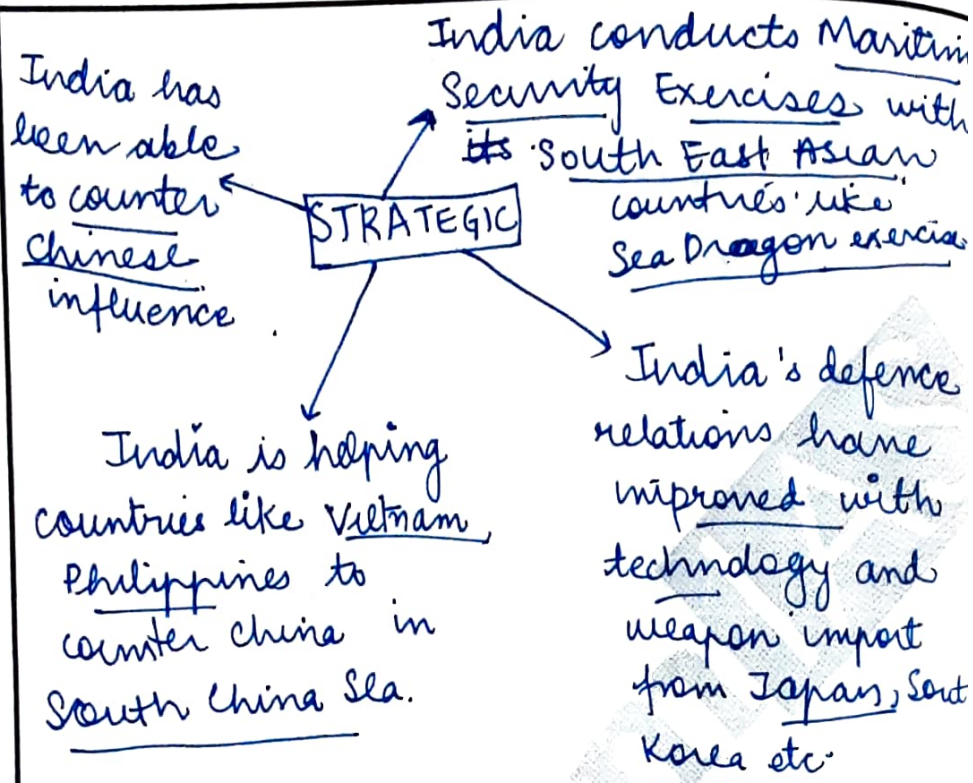
ASEAN is an important
trade partner.

India has
signed FTA
with South
Korea, ASEAN
etc. in goods
and services

India has
been able to
increase
Tourism exp-
pecially in
Buddhist
Circuit.

It has
helped in
economic
integration in
form of new markets

India-Japan
relations have
reached new
heights - QUAD



The Look East Policy was upgraded to Act East in 2014. It focusses on 4Cs →

Culture, Commerce, ~~Capo~~ connectivity and capacity building.

Act East is focussed on developing North East region and deepening ties with South East Asia.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

This Generic OCA booklet can be used to attempt all GS Advanced Program Tests.

Q.3) India announced its Look West Policy in 2005. India has huge stakes in West Asia (UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran etc) in terms of Energy and protecting diaspora.

- Issue of Energy Security has guided India's relation with West Asia. 60% of our fuel demand is met by them.

- But West Asia is marred by a ~~no~~ political instability and internal disputes like Israel - Arab; Israel - Iran; Arab - Iran etc.

→ India has been able to deal with it due to changing dimensions of its policy →

DE-HYPHENISATION → India has adopted a balanced and independent foreign policy with respect to Israel. It does not matter what the relations

between states are inter-se, India is following independent policy.

- **CONNECTIVITY** → India is also focussing on increasing connectivity between the countries using initiatives like **INSTC**.
- **TECHNOLOGY** → Transfer of Technology from countries like Israel is a new dimension and objective.
- **DEFENCE** → India is using its ties with West Asia to strengthen its defence capabilities. Eg - import of weapons from Israel.
- **MINILATERALISM** → Indian participation in **I2U2** is a sign of changing era of diplomacy. **I2U2** has been termed West Asian QUAD and is a strategic partnership.

Thus, India has been able to maintain good relations with all while safeguarding its own national interests.

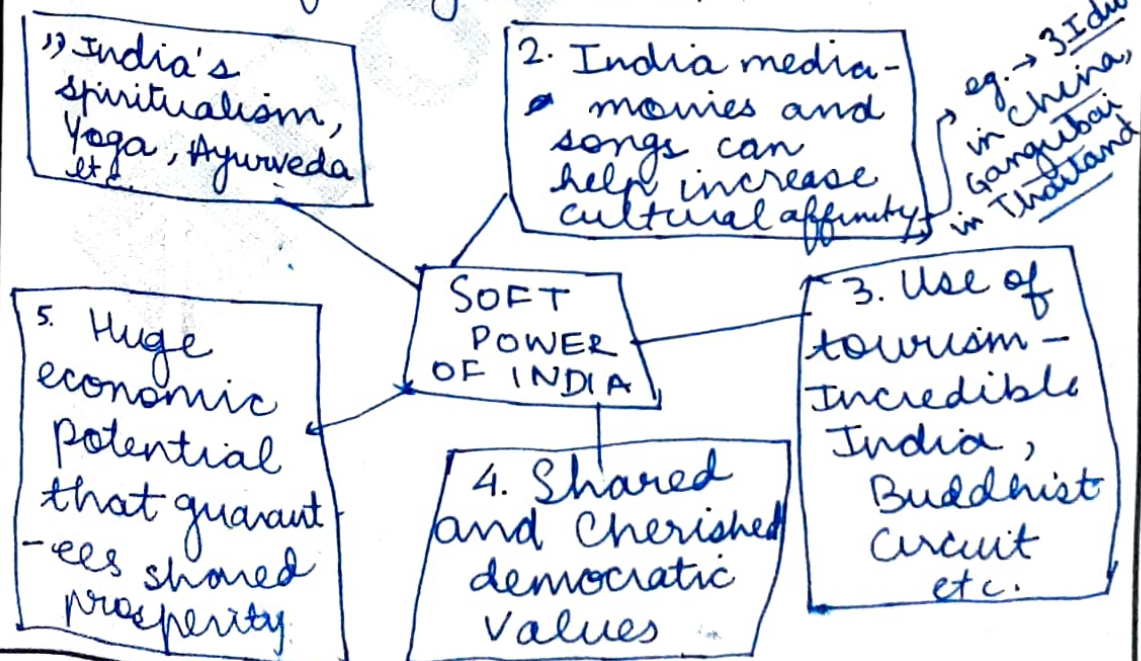
Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.4)

The term SOFT POWER was coined by Joseph Nye. He defined it as the capacity to shape preferences through appeal and attraction. It is ability to co-opt than coerce.

In modern times, use of hard power i.e. military seldom produces positive results (eg → IPKF in Sri Lanka). Thus, it is better to use soft power to attract and change attitude of neighbours →



India can leverage its soft power to check external influence -

↳ by providing economic help - easy line of credit and cheap loans

↳ by providing access to Indian markets.

↳ Promoting rule based international order.

↳ Highlighting shared cultural heritage

↳ Allowing access to mutually shared resources like rivers

↳ using para diplomacy to best advantage.

↳ Encouraging tourism.

India's major issue in its neighbourhood is its image as a big brother. Judicious use of soft power can help change this perception and usher in cooperation.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.5)

India and Afghanistan have had ~~one~~ ancient civilizational ties. But due to NATO's withdrawal and re-emergence of Taliban, these relations need a re-look.

India needs to engage with Taliban without providing legitimacy to current regime as -

- ↳ stable Afghanistan is needed for regional stability
- ↳ Afghanistan helps act as a check to Pakistan
- ↳ India's initiative to connect with Central Asia is dependant on Afghanistan.
- ↳ The Golden Crescent that includes Afghanistan smuggle drugs to India.



- ↳ Afghanistan is India's link to Central Asia.
- ↳ India has spent considerably in Afghanistan for its development.

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India can engage with Taliban ~~→~~
without legitimising it →

↳ India believes any peace progress should be [AFGHAN LED
AFGHAN OWNED
AFGHAN CONTROLLED]. India can help by interacting and engaging with MODERATE factions that believe in democracy.

↳ Taliban is facing challenges as its internal factionalism can lead to its break up. These units may join Al Qaeda or ISK (Islamic state of Khorasan)

↳ India can utilise this by diplo-matic manoeuvring. Taliban can be encouraged to protect women rights, adopt moderate Islam etc in return of international help.

→ India should increase community engagement using HICDPs (High Impact Community Development Projects) like Health, Education, etc. Providing basic amenities and aid in form of grains and medicines can help increase India's soft power in the region.

→ In the Delhi Declaration on Afghanistan, India reiterated the need to ~~en~~ continue dialogue and engage with Taliban to secure peaceful Afghanistan. Taliban had responded positively to the same. Thus, India needs to maintain a fine balance while dealing with the Taliban.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.6)

India's size and location has led to growth of 'Big Brother Syndrome' in its neighbourhoods.

Due to its asymmetrical size and desire to be a powerful country, India is seen with apprehension.

Unfortunately, India also sometimes tends to have paternalistic attitude towards its neighbours. Eg → IPKF in Sri Lanka, Madesh dispute ^{with} ~~the~~ ^{and} ~~Nepal~~ ^{Nepal}

This perception has many implications →

① Indian actions are seen with suspicion.

② India's comments on neighbours are seen as undue interference and challenge to sovereignty.

③ The perception of general public in neighbouring countries becomes anti-India.

④ This leads to political denunciation of India to gain votes.
Eg → in Bangladesh, no party wants to be seen as Indian stooge.

⑤ The apprehension of states pushes neighbours to China camp like Nepal being part of BR1.

India can counter this narrative

- ① By using its soft power
- ② By providing easy line of credit
- ③ By providing easy access to its markets.
- ④ By building HICDPs in neighbouring countries.

- (5) By providing aid to suffering countries like Nepal floods and Sri Lanka recently.
- (6) Highlighting shared cultural history.
- (7) Providing unilateral benefits.
- (8) Not making comments on internal issues and pursuing non-interference

As former PM Vajpayee said we can choose our friends but not our neighbours. We need to maintain friendly relations with them while addressing their apprehensions and fears. As Sushma Swaraj, India is not Big Brother but Elder Brother to its neighbours.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Q.7) The Covid Pandemic changed the global world order to some extent. The supply chains were blocked and a new form of foreign relations and diplomacy evolved. →

- India through its vaccine diplomacy - Vaccine Mantri provided vaccine covid-19 vaccines to its neighbouring countries. It helped improve India's image in Bangladesh, Nepal etc.
- India also shared medicines and medicinal infrastructure during this unprecedented crisis.

- Indian government provided donations and grants.
- Virtual summits were organised with neighbouring countries to look for solutions.
- Food supplies and fuel was shared.
- India also provided supplies related to energy demands - both conventional and non conventional.

India has developed goodwill through its proactive steps during

pandemic but goodwill must be consolidated and India must maintain its leverage for establishing a rule based order in its neighbourhood.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9