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anything in this Area)

GS Advanced Program 2023

Generic Booklet

online

Test Name/Code/No. : ...18.....

Name	
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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	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
Overall Grade/Score	

Start Writing Here

Q.1) SAARC is least eco. intg Region in world. what ~ Reasons? Can BIMSTEC replace SAARC to fulfil India's aspirations?

Ans SAARC - formed in 1985 for South Asian Solidarity with members (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Afgh, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives)

while BIMSTEC formed in 1997 with countries - India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand.

SAARC is least economic Integrated Region

① Low trade

(eg) Trade among members less than 2%

② Low FTAs

(eg) SAFTA not working, its in comma
→ C Rajamohan

③ Low economic Investments

(eg) Despite hydro Potential in Nepal

Bhutan - very low Indian Investments

⑦ Lack of Common Market Area

(eg) like Benelux in European Union

Reasons

→ Regional Politics

→ Pakistan v/s India

→ Trust deficits

(eg) border issues

→ Kashmir Mansarovar

→ China's Debt trap

→ Nepal

(eg) China leased Hambantota - Sri Lanka
→ 99 years

BIMSTEC Replace SAARC

- Reduce inroads by Pakistan.
- Harness Act East with Thailand.
- Harness peaceful maritime security.
- less Regional Politics

cannot Replace SAARC

- BIMSTEC is link between SAARC & ASEAN, cannot Replace.
- Pakistan need to be nudged for terrorism.
- Afghanistan needed to control narco trade.
(Golden Crescent).

BIMSTEC be leveraged for Increasing economic cooperation with East Asia (Project Mausam), SAARC revived for peaceful Neighbourhood.

Overall Grading (✓)

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

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Q.2)

How India's look east policy shaped in Post Cold war era to achieve economic & strategic objectives?

any Bipolar world between USA, USSR
(Truman Doctrine) - India's look east changed to act East by 1991. (end of cold war)

India's look east Policy changes

- | <u>Cold War</u> | <u>Post Cold War</u> | <u>look East to act East</u> |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • look east • focus on USSR primarily for defense etc | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic + cultural + strategic + security concerns • ASEAN focused | |
| <p>(eg) 1971 Treaty of Peace & Friendship</p> | | |

Policy changes to fulfill economic & strategic objectives in Post Cold War era →

- ASEAN nations leveraged for economy
- (eg) Singapore is one largest FDI contributors.

- ① Strategic Reasons
- (eg) ASEAN needed for peaceful Indo Pacific.
- ② Security Purposes defined
golden Δ (Myanmar, Laos, Thailand)
- needed need to cooperate to control illicit drugs. arms trade.
- ③ Quid Pro Quo Policy
As Brabir De says "look west of ASEAN is consonance with Act east of India"

However look east Policy faces stiff challenge from Rising China's Pivot in ASEAN, low soft power leverage.

India and ASEAN celebrated 2022 as friendship year (Sanjay Banu) - Further Project Mausam rediscovery of Buddhist ties will leverage look east Policy.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
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Q.3)

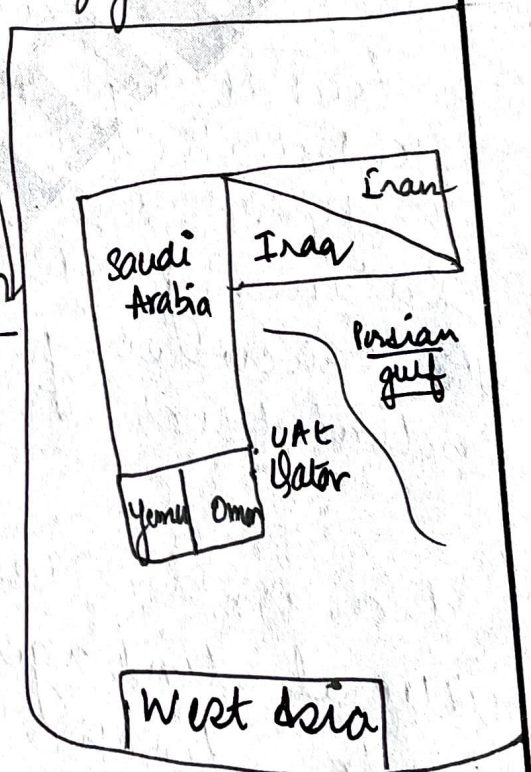
Issue of energy security has remained look west policy. Discuss changing dimensions of India's relation with West Asia.

Ans

look west policy refers to India's approach to Middle East - its multidimensional (brahmachitani) - serving strategic, energy reasons and its evolving.

Energy security : major concern

- (*) India being energy deficit, imports 80% of oil.
- (*) West Asia like Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq also big suppliers.



- (*) India's Foreign Policy aims to harness relations for energy security → food security → National security

Changing dimensions of India - West Asia

① Strategic concerns

- ② India wants to lessen Muslim nations support to Pakistan for terrorism.

① Diaspora

- "Present govt - working for diaspora" - India engage to work for them in UAE etc. → 6% Indians

① Security concerns

- ② Countering fundamentalists like Hezbollah has found resonance with India.

① Balancing China

- Its increasing fold in West Asia, India tries to balance.

India and West Asia share cultural linkages from Silk Route trade, further Policy of Synchronisation may help realise Real Interest.

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Q.4)

What Instruments of soft Power India has to strengthen its ties with neighbours? How can use to counter external influence?

Ans Joseph Nye "soft Power is by consensus and its "Power with" rather "Power over".

India leverages soft Power as its mould from "snake charmers to mouse charmers" (PM Modi)

Instruments of soft Power India has

★ shared and cherished democratic values

eg NAM → for decolonisation.
Mahatma Gandhi → Truth.

★ Cultural linkages →

eg Buddhism, Jainism, Monsoon

* Means of Entertainment

(eg) Bollywood, Cricket.

* Civilisational legacy

Manu to ~~main~~ "India is cradle of civilisation".

(eg) Concept of Zero

* Huge economic Potential

(eg) 130 Billion people → Big Market

India has can use to counter external influence as →

* Namaste Diplomacy

(eg) ~~Surge~~ Covid → Became symbol of India

* Rule Based Regional order

(eg) SAARC to be used.

* Mini groupings

(eg) IPEF → counter china's debt trap

* Sharing cultural heritage

(eg) Sundarban (India - Bangladesh)

operation Ganga in Ukraine is show of soft power. Further SAMTA initiative by MTA will help.

Overall Grading (✓)

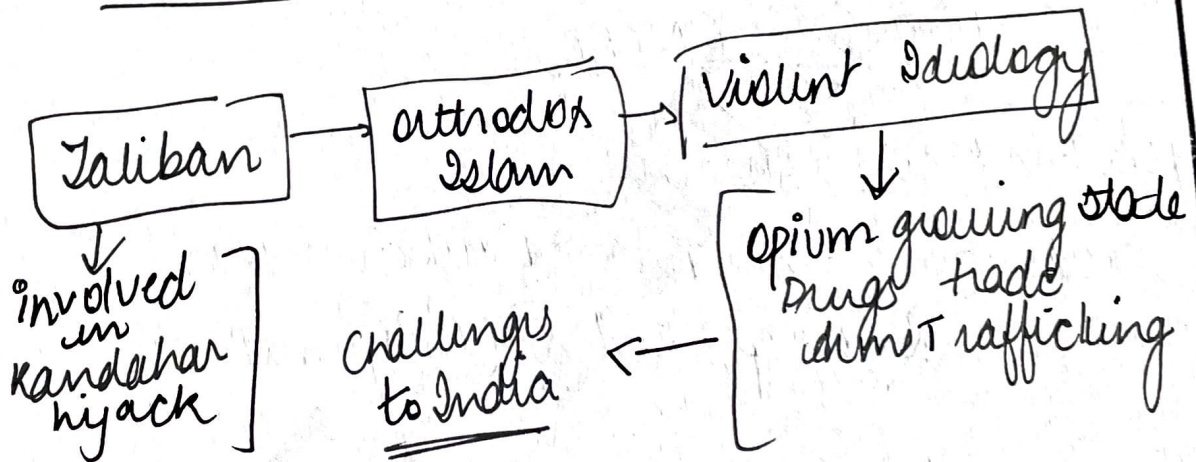
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Q.5)

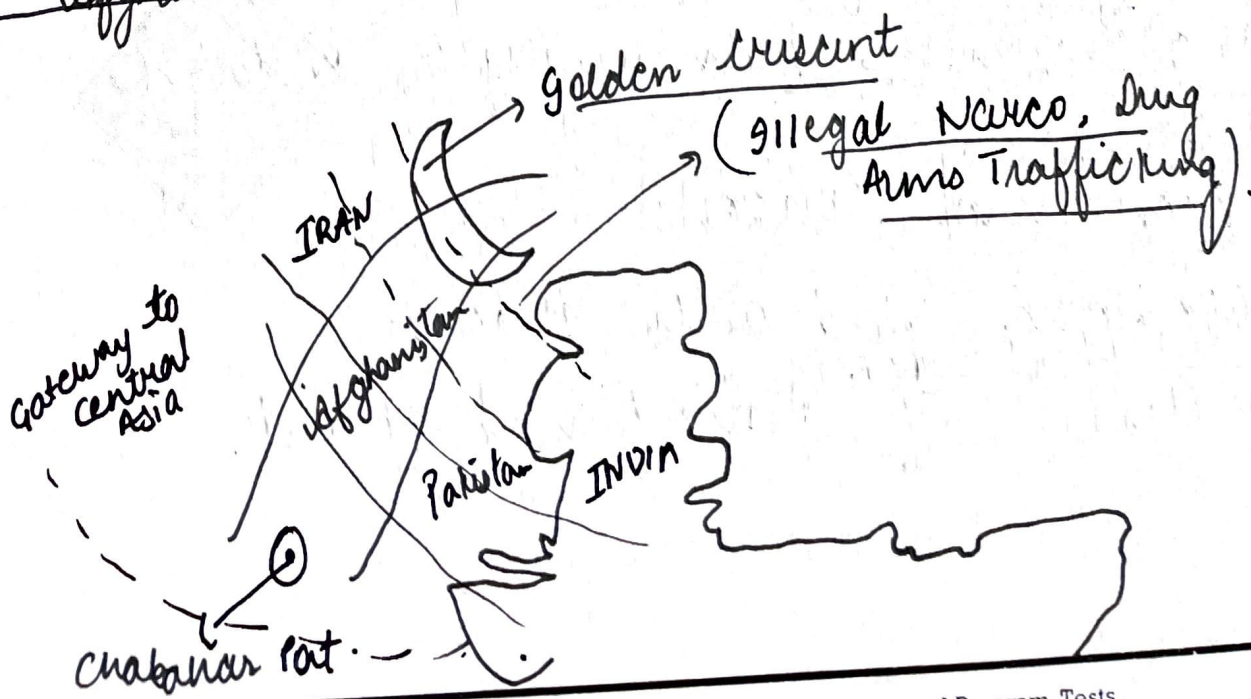
Re emergence of Taliban in Afg has changed strategic dimensions of India in region. How can India engage with taliban without giving legit?

Ans.

Years of US fighting in Afghanistan Post 26/11 (Operation Enduring Freedom), it withdrew with re emergence of Taliban to power.



Afghanistan →



Re emergence of Taliban changed strategic dimensions for India as

① Security concern
Taliban has links with LeT - threat of increased insurgency in Kashmir with Terrorist attacks.

② challenge of Golden Crescent Increased Taliban → safe passage to illegal drugs Trade → Havoc in Punjab, UP, Haryana. (NCRB).

③ Geostrategic concerns → Pakistan - China - Taliban axis
(eg) → Box up India (C. Rajamohan)

④ Threat to core values of Democracy
Pakistan → flawed democracy
Afghanistan → Human Rights Violated.

⑤ Economic concerns
Chabahat port under threat
millions of investment at risk

India can engage with Taliban as

→ Invert gas lighting by China Pak
→ safeguard its security
→ protect economic interests

Indian can engage as →

- ① Engaging least extremist groups
Afghanistan → multiple groups → possibility of engagement
(eg) Hazaras
- ② Community engagement →
(eg) cultural exchanges with schools.
- ③ Harnessing Economic areas
(eg) Soft loans for infrastructure.
- ④ Diplomatic attempts for Human Rights
- ⑤ Administrative training, civic amenities with Security
- ⑥ making IS Khorasan as common threat to India, Taliban.

India's engagement with Taliban
Based on Real Politik, enjoining
"Peaceful, Democratic, Afghan"
(Rakesh Sodhi)

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Q.6)

The size and location of India has led to growth of Big Brother in neighb countries. What are implic. How can India counter?

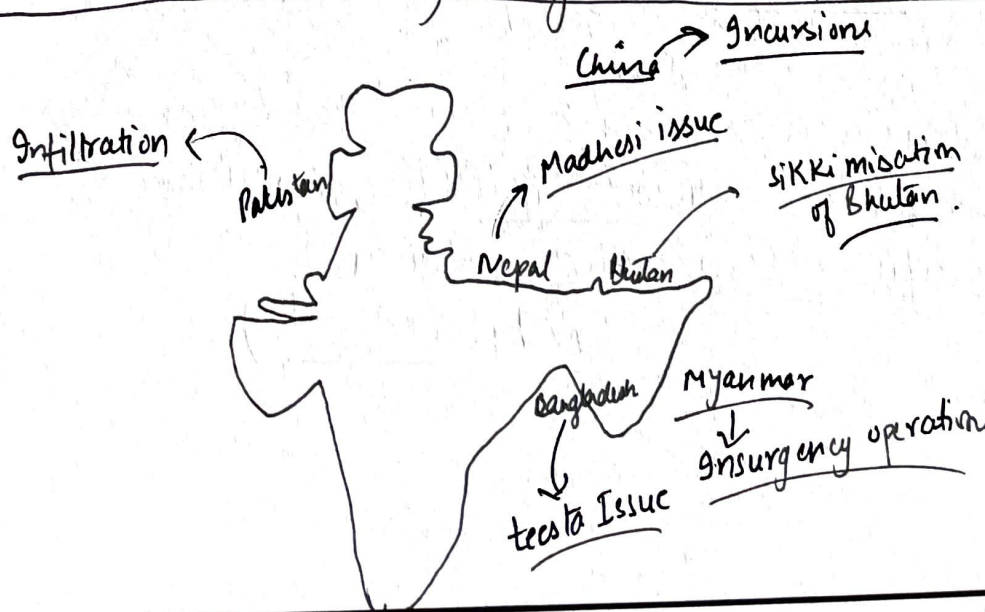
Ans

India has 2.4% geographical area of world with prominent exceptional location (Rajaditu):-

leading to str "India cannot be ignored in South Asia" J N Chatterjee.

Big Brother Syndrome emerge due to above. It is a tendency where India seen as Hegemon by neighbours.

India & Neighbourhood



Implications —

★ Trust deficit :-

(eg) Nepal accuses India of interfering in its politics after economic blockade.

★ Poor Integration with neighbours
Constantin Xavien mentions it.

(eg) SAARC in disguise.

★ Rising China's Pivot

(eg) except Bhutan - all joined BRI

★ Rising Border disputes

(eg) Kalapani region → Nepal

★ Strategic challenges →

(eg) Yuan well ship of China in Sri Lanka.

★ Threat to Neighbourhood First Policy

(eg) India cannot be world leader with disputed neighbours.

India can counter by →

- ① Neighbourhood First Policy
(eg) unilateral line of credit to Sri Lanka.
- ② Harnessing Soft Power
(eg) Buddhism with Bangladesh.
- ③ Cultural ties tapped →
(eg) Chin and Nagas (Myanmar & India)
- ④ Economic Partnerships
(eg) FTA's signed, CEPA with Sri Lanka.
- ⑤ Reviving SAARC
help counter China's Pivot & Bridge Trust deficit.

Further India can have 'Security Commission' (C Rajamohan) to assure neighbours. Further Panchamrit idea of Samman, Samvad held.

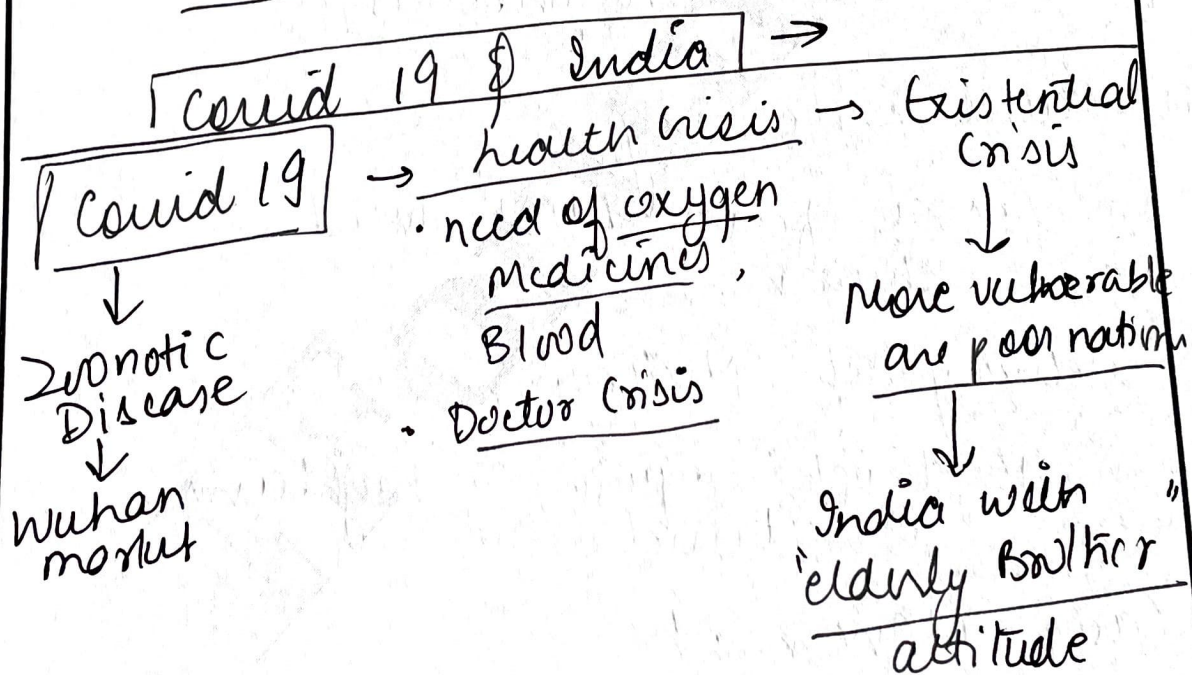
Overall Grading (✓)

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Q.7) Pandemic allowed India to discover new routes of eng with countries around herself. What Role India played in assisting neighbours?

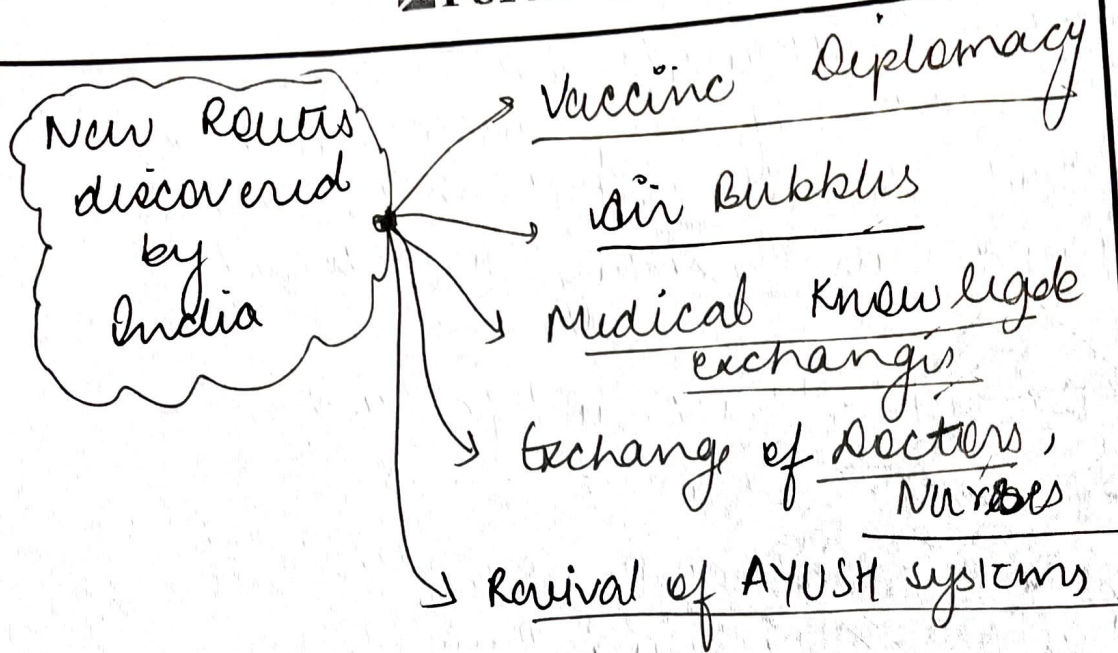
Ans.

Covid 19 - "Once in life crisis" -
allowed India to engage with neighbours on lines of "Vasudha Kutumbakam".



Reduced trust deficit, ←
Hegemon Image.

Reached neighbours



India assisted neighbours →

① Covid Diplomacy

(eg) Doctors from Bhutan. AIIMS went to

② Delivery of Medicines

(eg) Hydrochloroquine, Paracetamol to neighbours.

③ Easy Movement

(eg) Sir Bubble created between India and Bangladesh.

④ Economic aid

Medical help send to Nepal

- ① Vaccine technology assistance
 (eg) Covaxin offered to neighbours
- ② Moral support
 (eg) PM Modi regularly interacted with neighbours to boost confidence.

However, limitations of money,
vaccines, time may have
 constrained India's engagement
 with neighbours:

India a hub of generic medicines
 and vaccine technology can
 harness SAARC to develop
 health capacities of neighbours.

Overall Grading (✓)

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