

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	
2	
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Overall Grade/Score	

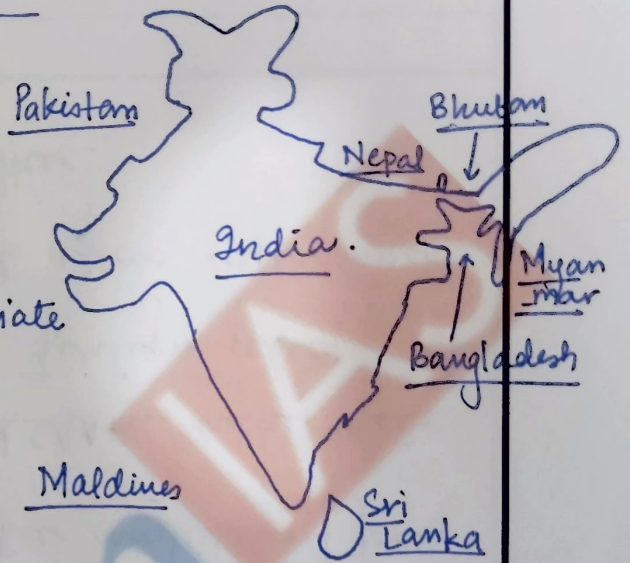
Start Writing Here

Q.1)

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

SAARC countries

(SAARC) is a multilateral regional grouping of 8 countries in India's immediate neighbourhood formed in 1985



However the grouping has been

unsuccessful in integrating the region as:-

- India - Pakistan rivalry overshadows the multilateral agenda → no proper summit since 2014.
- Big Brother syndrome against India with 80% of the population in the region and 70% area and only trillion dollar economy
- The economies are not complementary to each other.
- Reverse regionalism with each country

trying to assert its separate identity instead of cultural cohesion.

- Pangs of proximity → territorial disputes.

Can BIMSTEC Replace SAARC?

- SAARC due to its geo-political position better serves India's regional aspirations.
- There is organic cultural and geographic connection between SAARC countries.
- Shared issues of SAARC like poverty, terrorism, human trafficking, smuggling etc.
- BIMSTEC has its own set of issues and explicitly declares itself to be only complementary and not substitute to other multilateral fora.

Hence, both BIMSTEC and SAARC have their defined roles in India's foreign policy.

Overlap of members doesn't allow replacement of one organization with other.

Overall Grading (✓)

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

Q.2)

India's Look East Policy is an assertion of India's renewed focus towards its Eastern neighbours in Asia particularly the ASEAN. It was first propounded by P.V. Narasimha Rao in the early 1990s.

India's post cold war era concerns:

- Collapse of India's almost sole partner in Asia with disintegration of USSR.
- Search for new partners for raw materials and market.
- The economic success story of 'Asian Tigers' inspired India to develop along those lines especially following the economic reforms of 1991.

Therefore India was naturally driven towards its East Asian neighbours in post cold war era.

Look East Policy in post cold war era

- The Look East Policy provided India with new markets in an economically robust SE Asia.
- Attracted investments in India → Malaysia continues to be one of the largest sources of FDI to India.
- Opened new supplies of critical technologies including electronics → Taiwan, Korea, Japan.
- Paved way for India - ASEAN FTA.

With India's growing assertion and emerging challenges, India has shifted to 'Act East Policy' which :-

- Continues and furthers the economic coop.
- Adds the dimension of defence and security especially maritime security for a rules based order in the region. and securing SLOCs.

Therefore, the East continues to be vital for India. Increased confidence building and integration is desirable.

Overall Grading (✓)

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

Q.3) 'West Asia' comprising the oil rich gulf countries have been vital for India's foreign policy as they are the source of 785% of India's oil imports with Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq being important partners.

Thus, energy security remains the paramount concerns in India's 'Look West Policy' in spite of changing dimensions of India's west asia relations:-

- Saudi Arabia v/s Iran issue : Stemming from the Sunnis v/s Shias conflict. India has tried to maintain cordial relations with both countries.

▶ Recent exemption of Indians from Police Control Certification (PCC) for Saudi visas.

- ▶ Continued cooperation on Chabahar

port with Iran. along

- India has remained neutral on Houthi rebels issue of Yemen and promoted cessation of violence by all sides.
- Israel-Palestine issue : A defining aspect of west-Asian politics, India has followed a de-hyphenated policy. and carefully balanced interests of all parties while calling for peace and diplomacy.
- Extremely cordial relations with UAE : I202 forum, one of largest-FDI inflows, recent CEPA.

Hence, while west Asian politics remains fluid, India's commitment of 'friendship with all-discord with none' policy continues in light of its energy security concerns. A delicate balancing act needs tactful diplomatic manouvering and confidence-building with all sides.

Overall Grading (✓)

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

Q.4)

Soft Power concept propounded by Joseph Nye refers to use of non-military consensus building tools for furthering foreign policy goals such as cultural ties, cinema, ~~de~~ democratic values, cuisine, attire and so on.

India's cultural proximity with its neighbourhood allows it to capitalize on its soft power to strengthen its relations with them:-

Potential tools of soft power

- Democratic values → as India's neighbourhood has not been able to embrace them well
- Market access → with population of 1.4 Bn+, India is a powerhouse for generating varied demands.
- Greater Connectivity → supported by suitable geography (Eg) BBIN.
- Cinema → largest industry and already popular in neighbourhood.

India can wisely use its position as a powerhouse of soft power to counter external influence through:-

- Easy loans and lines of credit → on lines extended to SL to counter debt trap diplomacy.
- Unilateral benefits (no quid pro quo) → as highlighted by Gujral doctrine. [Eg] donation of vaccines to Afghanistan.
- Opening of markets → for neighbours allowing them access to shared economic prosperity.
- Mutual Respect → refraining from big brother syndrome and respecting neighbours on lines of Panchsheel.

India has a first mover advantage and civilizational ties with neighbours. India must strive to estb. a rules based order ensuring peaceful co-existence with neighbourhood.

Overall Grading (✓)

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

Q.5)

The withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan was accompanied by almost simultaneous return of Taliban.

Termed as Taliban 2.0, its re-emergence has created geo-political and strategic issues for India.

While India considers Afghanistan to be an extremely important partner from geo-strategic point of view, it is difficult for India to grant legitimacy to Taliban as:-

- India has never differentiated between
- good and bad Taliban.
- Taliban considers Jammu and Kashmir as an important target.

- India has always supported an Afghan led development process and democratic ethos in Afghanistan.

In spite of these issues, India has important stakes in Taliban including billions of dollars of investment. Hence

engagement with Taliban becomes

necessary. The possible ways to do this, without providing legitimacy to Taliban are:-

- India can initiate discussions with the less extremist factions within the Taliban
- India can must continue with its confidence building measures among the Afghan community like High Impact

Community development project (HICDP), People-To-People contact, civic amenities, humanitarian assistance etc. → this will compel Taliban to soften its stance.

- India can leverage the Taliban-IS-(K) conflict by tactful diplomatic manoeuvring to fulfill its interests in Afghanistan.
- India can continue capacity building programmes like ~~cap~~ skill development, student scholarships.
- Keep doors for trade open.

Afghanistan is India's gateway to Central Asia. The delicate diplomatic balancing, years of goodwill efforts are reaping rich dividends for India and the same needs to continue.

Overall Grading (✓)

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

Q.6)

Big Brother Syndrome refers to the undue influence, interference or coercion of a nation, relatively larger in size, soft and hard power against its smaller partners.

India, due to factors like -

- 1.4 Bn (2nd largest population).
- 7% of world's land area.
- 7500 km + coastline.
- 3rd largest military.
- \$3 trillion economy

has been accused of 'Big Brother Syndrome' by its relatively smaller neighbours.

Implications of the Perception

- Neighbours have often used this narrative to gain electoral points in

their countries.

↳ India Out Campaign in Maldives.

- Smaller neighbours have often tilted towards rival powers.

↳ Nepal under Communist govt.

- Deadlocks in regional forums due to such apprehensions of neighbours.

↳ SAARC and its deadlock.

India needs to counter this narrative to re-establish itself as the trustworthy partner. - that it some steps in this direction

can be

- Easy loans and lines of credit → on lines as extended to SL to prevent debt trap diplomacy.
- Adherence to project timelines and commitments → ^{unlike.} as in case of Nepal

where 'India Promises and China deliners'.

- Giving market access → 1.4 Bn+ population will unlock doors of economic prosperity.
- Avoid muscle flexing → key routes of diplomacy to tackle even security challenges.
- Mutual Respect → Respect their sovereignty, negotiate on equal footing, don't treat them as backyards.
- General confidence building → by leveraging soft powers, cultural ties, people-to-people contact.

India has wisely pursued policies like Vaccine maitree, first responder in disasters in IOR, Act East and SAGAR.

Persistent efforts in these directions will surely reap rich dividends for India.

Overall Grading (✓)

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

Q.7)

The COVID-19 pandemic posed humanitarian emergency of unprecedented proportions for the world. The global nature of the pandemic made it clear that unilateral, uncoordinated efforts could not curb this tragedy.

India realized this early on and wisely followed a one-world-one-health approach besides providing assistance in other effected areas like energy, supply chains, food security and economy.

New Routes of Engagement

- Active participation in global support initiatives like COVAX by UN.

- New initiatives for supply chain resilience like Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) with Japan and Australia.
- Vaccine diplomacy → Vaccine Maitri leveraging on being 'Pharmacy of the World'
- Leadership of the Global South → demanding IPR exemptions to covid vaccine and therapeutic technologies at WTO.

India has extended a special hand of support to its immediate neighbours through steps like:-

- Key role in establishing SAARC emergency fund with pioneering donation of \$10 million dollars.
- Generous donations of vaccines and

medicines to neighbours in need like Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

- Capacity building of medical personnel through online training modules.
- \$1 billion line of credit, \$500 million deferred loans to Sri Lanka for ensuring supply of essentials and overcoming the aftermath of the pandemic.
- Health facilities through India's HICDP programmes including ambulances in SL.

Thus, staying true to its ethos of 'Sarve Santo Niramaya' India has gone out of its way for the world and especially its neighbourhood whilst ensuring the health and safety of its own people.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
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