



C3

GS Advanced Program 2023			
Generic Booklet			
Test Name/Code/No. : (9202) (#21)			
Name			
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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 -
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Important -

- Answers must be attempted in the QCA Booklet only.
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- 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	

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Q.1)

It has been rightly being said that if the last few decades were of Asia's growth story, the next few are expected to be of Africa's.

India's influence in Africa

- ① India has enhanced its cooperation with Africa from early 2000s.
- ② India is Africa's, 3rd largest trade partner.
- ③ Investments — India is Africa's 7th largest investor.
- ④ Easy lines of credit for railway development, electrification, irrigation projects and farm mechanisation.
- ⑤ India is investing in development of Entrepreneurship Development & Training Centre (CEDT) in Senegal.

- ⑤ ~~India~~ Providing Special ITEC English proficiency training to Senegalese public servants
- ⑦ Unilateral duty-free market access to all Least Developed Countries
→ 35 are in Africa.

Challenges

- Rise of religious & ethnic conflicts
(eg) Boko-Haram in Nigeria
- Limited reach — only in few pockets (eg) South Africa, Senegal, etc.
- increased Chinese footprints
- absence of rule of law and frequent regime changes in Africa

Way Forward

- focus on Asia Africa growth corridor
 - Enhancing the goals of Delhi Declaration
- Africa has vast opportunity for India to explore in form of resources (natural) and act as a key stakeholder in the growth of the region.

Overall Grading (✓)

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

Q.2)

WHO is a specialised UN agency to provide international public health. Its objective is to ensure highest levels of health for all people.

→ However, in the wake of its response to COVID-19 pandemic, its credibility is being questioned as a global health provider.

WHO: Failure to handle COVID-19

1) Inability to challenge sovereignty
→ Could not get access to health data from various countries
⑧ China.

2.) Became a puppet to Chinese politics
→ WHO chief applauded Chinese speedy detection of pandemic & its transparency.

3.) ~~Cont~~ Failed to declare the outbreak in Wuhan and a public health emergency of international concern.

- 4.) Confused and delayed approach to pandemic
→ initially opposed travel bans.

Successes made by WHO in pandemic

- 1) it contributed \$175 million to find cure.
- 2) rigorous efforts to arrest online misinformation
- 3) created COVAX facility for collaborative vaccine research.

Way Forward

- 1) WHO should get authority to investigate outbreaks
- 2) Easy access & publishing of health data → allowed.
- 3) Increased funding.

The COVID-19 pandemic has given an opportunity for WHO to bring up reform & lead the world as global health provider.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
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Q.3)

Central Asian ~~Region~~ Republics consist of ~~to be~~ 5 countries namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan. It acts as bridge between Asia and Europe.

Opportunities for India in Central Asia

- ① Rich source of natural resources
 - ①.1 Kazakhstan → largest Uranium producer
 - ①.2 Tajikistan → hydropower producer
 - ①.3 Uzbekistan → 4th largest natural gas producer.
 - ①.4 Kyrgyzstan & Turkmenistan → huge gold reserves
- ② Vast cultivable lands available
→ opportunity for India to invest
 - ②.1 agro → agro-industries
- ③ India can ensure food security by boosting milk production and agricultural production

- (4) bridge between Asia and Eurasia
→ connect India to Europe.

Challenges

- low trade of ~ \$2 billion with central Asian countries
- halted INSTC — connectivity project to Central Asia
- Rise of "NARCO-terrorism" from Afghanistan
- growth of religious & extremist groups in Afghanistan

Central Asia engagement of India will help neutralise its ~~West~~ ~~Ass~~ anti-West Bias. But for this, India should ~~achieve~~ a balance the geo-political ambitions of Russia & China in the region.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
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Q.4)

I2U2 is a minilateral between India, Israel, UAE and USA. It was also called as "West Asian Quad" by Ahmad Abana (UAE's Ambassador to India)

I2U2 transforming India's position in global politics

① India has a rich potential in middle-east in terms of oil imports and export of consumer goods.

② ~~It is access to~~

② Maritime security — secured sea-lanes of communications —

- Bab-al-Mandeb → Red Sea & Arabian Sea
- Suez Canal → Mediterranean & Red Sea.

→ offers great opportunity for India.

③ Economy → India can get huge investments from Israel, USA & UAE.

- ④ will help in boosting the recently signed CEPA with UAE.
- ⑤ Provide new avenue of interaction with USA apart from Quad.
- ⑥ Increased probability of technological cooperation.
- ⑦ Food Parks being setd by I2U2 → to ensure food security in Middle East & South Asia.

Challenges

- 1) Israel can use it counter Iran.
- 2) USA can use I2U2 to decouple China from Israel & UAE.
- 3) Proximity of Russia with Iran can lead to a China-Russia-Iran nexus.

I2U2 is a hope for better cooperation and can act as a tool of India's balancing foreign policy in middle-east.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
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Q.5)

Middle-east is the region of utmost strategic importance to India because of its rich energy sources and age-old historical and cultural ties.

Diffusion of power in middle-east

→ 3 major power houses are — Israel, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

→ Age-old conflicts

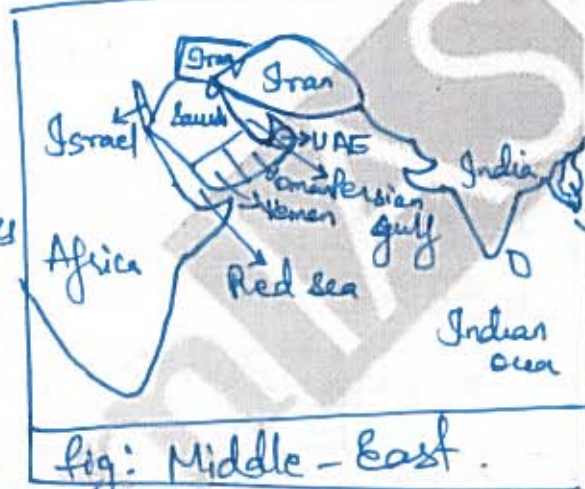
→ Intra-regional conflicts

① Saudi-Iran and intra-religious line i.e. Sunni-Shia conflict.

② Israel & Palestine → inter-religious and political conflict between Israel Jews & Palestinian Muslims.

→ Extra-Regional actors

→ ground for proxy wars between Russia and USA.



eg) Syrian civil war.

- American invasion of Iraq in 2003
- Israel supported by USA.
- Sanctions imposed by USA on Iran.

India's stakes in Middle east

- 1.) Diaspora — around 11 million Indians reside in West Asian countries.
→ huge source of remittances.
- 2.) Energy security — India imports 60% of its energy needs from the region.
- 3.) Trade & investment — India has a bilateral trade of ~~~\$32~~ ~ \$38 billion.
- 4.) Connectivity → region acts as a bridge between India & Europe.
a and Central Asia -

- 5.) Strategic Interest - access to many SLOCs which act as choke points
(eg) Bandar-e-abbas port, etc.

India's balancing approach

- 1.) I2U2 → multilateral between India, Israel, UAE & USA
 - 2.) De-hypheration policy between Israel and Palestine.
 - 3.) India can assure Iran about the need of Bandar-e-abbas & Chabahar ports and push for development of INSTC.
 - 4.) Assurance to Egypt regarding INSTC → no threat to its sovereignty in Red Sea & Suez Canal.
 - 5.) Abraham Accords can be expanded & - India can urge other middle-east countries to join it.
- As middle-east has become multipolar with diffused power relations, India must use a mix of balanced approach while dealing with this region.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
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Q.6)

Nordic countries are a group of geographically & culturally similar group of countries that ~~include~~ lie in North Atlantic & North Europe region. It consists of Denmark, Iceland, ~~Swed~~ Sweden, Finland, Norway and autonomous regions of Fuse Islands & Greenland.

Immense potential of India's engagement

① Hightened investments in Blue Economy
→ ~~both~~ ^{the} countries have vast oceanic resources

→ India has invited Nordic countries to invest in India's blue economy

(eg) Sagarmala initiative

② Health sector — Nordic countries have great pool of healthcare infrastructure.

→ help in India's healthcare infra building

→ joint research cooperation in vaccine development.

③ Environment

→ The twin objectives of climate security and energy cooperation can be achieved

→ Nordic countries can transfer technologies related to green energy & sustainable development.

④ Water bodies

→ India has invited 8 Nordic countries for cooperation in restoration of water bodies

→ River water cleaning technologies can help India clean its water resources.

eg Clean ganga mission -

⑤ Innovation

→ ~~Sweden~~ Nordic countries have the potential to support India's flagship missions like "Digital India", "Startup India" and "Make in India"

⑥ Investment

- Sweden has pledged to invest \$35 billion in Indian industries
- Lead IT initiative between India & Nordic countries

Challenges India faces

- ① India's neutral stand in Russia-Ukraine conflict is opposed by Nordic countries
 - ② Sweden & Finland's request to join NATO → ~~restricts~~ ~~reduce~~ India's neutral stand.
 - ③ Connectivity is a big problem between India & Nordic countries
 - ④ Low trade of just ~ \$13 billion as compared to \$70 billion with China.
- India has more convergences than divergences with Nordic countries. Therefore it must work to consolidate its convergences & sit together to work on points of differences.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
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Q.7)

International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a multi-modal transport project that was signed between Russia, Iran & India in St. Petersburg on 12th September 2000.

Importance of INSTC

- ① Acts as a counter to the Chinese BRI.
- ② decreases India's cost of transportation and trade to Russia via Iran.
- ③ is synchronisation with the Asgha-
bad agreement of multi-modal transit corridor.
- ④ Provides easy connectivity of India to Central Asia & Eurasia.

Issues with INSTC

- ① Russia has also been a part of Chinese BRI through —
• China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor.

- ② Establishment of PAKAFUZ - a railway link of 573 km between Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Tehran (Iran) & Kabul (Afghanistan)
- ②.1 → it decreases Afghanistan's dependence on INSTC
- ②.2 → it also hampers India's interest in development of Chabahar port in Iran.
- ③ Ongoing conflicts between INSTC members :
 - ③.1 → Artsakh conflict between Armenia & Azerbaijan.
 - ③.2 → Ongoing Russia - Ukraine war.
- ④ Sanctions imposed on Russia in wake of Ukraine crisis
 - ④.1 → reduced scope of Russian investment in INSTC
- ⑤ Sanctions imposed on Iran by USA has already delayed the project.

What other options India should explore?

① India should divert its focus on Indo-Pacific and Euro-Asian region instead of just focus on Central Asia.

② Israel offer to India regarding TAC (Trans-Arabian-Connectivity) Corridor in 2019. India must relook into its decision. Maritime

③ Chennai - Vladivostok Corridor
→ to increase India's presence in Russia's resource-rich far east.

④ Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)
i.e. a joint project between India & Japan should be kickstarted.

Although, INSTC is an opportunity for India to increase its presence in Central Asia. But the inherent challenges highlight the need for India to explore other options as well.

Overall Grading (✓)

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

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