

**GS Advanced Program 2023****Generic Booklet**Test Name/Code/No. : **6A2023**

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
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Overall Grade/Score	

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Q.1)

"If the last few decades were of Asia's growth story, the next few are expected to be of Africa's". In the light of this statement, examine India's influence in Africa in recent years.

The last few decades saw the exponential rise of Asian countries like India, China etc. This is now being overshadowed by growth in Africa.

- Intra Africa trade is expected to reach \$35 billion by end of 2022.
- The rate of return on investment is the highest in Africa in the world currently.

India's influence in Africa

- (i) India's shared long historical ties as seen through Mahatma Gandhi's stand against oppressive colonial rule.
- (ii) India has always been a supporter of Africa in International politics and this can be traced back to Non Alignment movement where they forged South-South Cooperation.
- (iii) India is Africa's third largest trading partner.

- (iv) India has granted several concessional lines of credit for developmental projects in Africa
- (v) India is the 7th largest investor in Africa
- (vi) Principled lending using forums like Asia Africa Growth Corridor unlike China's Debt trap diplomacy
- (vii) India used medical diplomacy during Covid-19 by providing essential medical supplies and vaccines
- (viii) To increase its outreach into the continent, India holds several summits like the India Africa Forum Summit etc

Africa offers a number of resources that are essential for India's growth. India must continue to maintain favourable ties with Africa.

Overall Grading (✓)

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

Q.2)

Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during Covid-19 pandemic

The World Health Organisation functions under the United Nations system with the primary role of directing and coordinating efforts towards International health. This was most noticeable during the Covid-19 crisis

WHO during Covid-19

- Issued guidelines to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus → this also helped to bust dangerous myths
- Encouraged countries for vaccine development
- Provided critical medical supplies to health workers
- Training and mobilisation of Health workers
- Coordinated among nations for better information dissemination
- Doing research on its genome sequencing

Criticism

- Accused of being partial to certain countries

- Criticised for its handling of China, where the virus originated
- US pulling out from funding the WHO
- Delay in releasing virus-related information
- US halting appointment of judges to dispute resolution Appellate body.

Institutions like WHO must be careful in protecting themselves from being pawns to political agenda. Despite these controversies, WHO has played a significant role in global health as seen through its efforts in controlling smallpox, reducing polio cases and dealing with Ebola outbreaks.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
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Q.3) India's engagement with CARs is vital in navigating the opportunities & challenges in the region. Discuss.

India and the Central Asian Republics share deep historical linkages, going back to ties in trade, commerce and culture.

Opportunities for India

- (i) The location of CARs is highly relevant for India's strategic interests → it acts as a bridge between Asia and Europe
- (ii) The Central Asian region is rich in resources like uranium, petroleum, coal, natural gas, gold, hydropower capacity etc
↳ instrumental for India's growth
- (iii) India is involved in several connectivity projects in this region.
eg. ① International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)
② TAPI pipeline
- (iv) Highly cultivable areas are available → agro industrial opportunities. Also, it can solve food security issues.

(V) There is an assured market in India for resources of Central Asia

Challenges

- (i) Extremely low trade - Around \$2 billion
- (ii) China's involvement in the region via Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)
- (iii) Religious extremism, fundamentalism, drug trafficking → threat to regional stability
- (iv) Obstructions to connectivity projects due to Afghan instability
- (v) Seen to ground of 'Great Games' between US, China, Russia, India, Europe, Japan because all of them have economic and security stake in this region.

Central Asia acts as a buffer to contain a fallout of fundamentalism and to insulate India from narco-terrorism. India's presence may neutralise anti-West bias in this region. However, India must balance geo-political ambitions of China and Russia to evolve a mutually beneficial framework

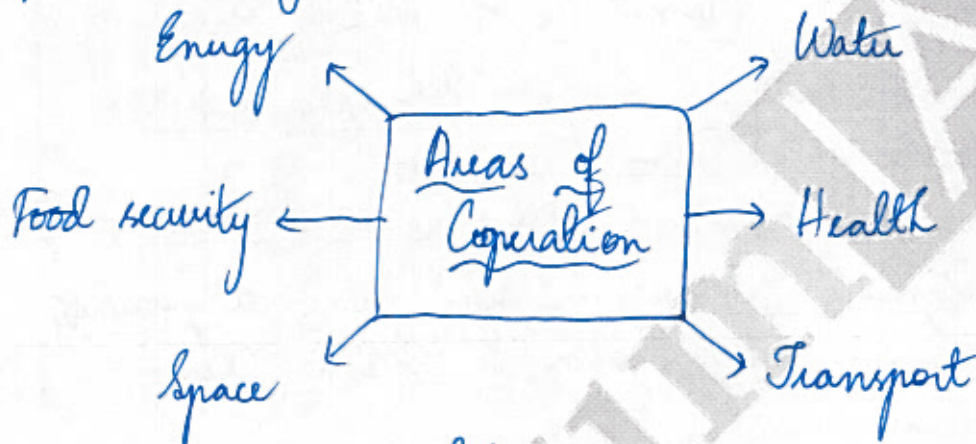
Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
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Q.4)

How will I2U2 grouping transform India's position in global politics?

I2U2 grouping is a minilateral consisting of India, Israel, USA and UAE. It is being seen as a "West Asia Quad" as expressed by the UAE Ambassador.



→ Economic cooperation

→ India has a decent presence in the Middle East and gets its major energy supplies from here. In return, India provides consumer goods.

→ Security cooperation

The Western IOR has critical SLOCs

↳ These are important checkpoints which provides abundant opportunities for India

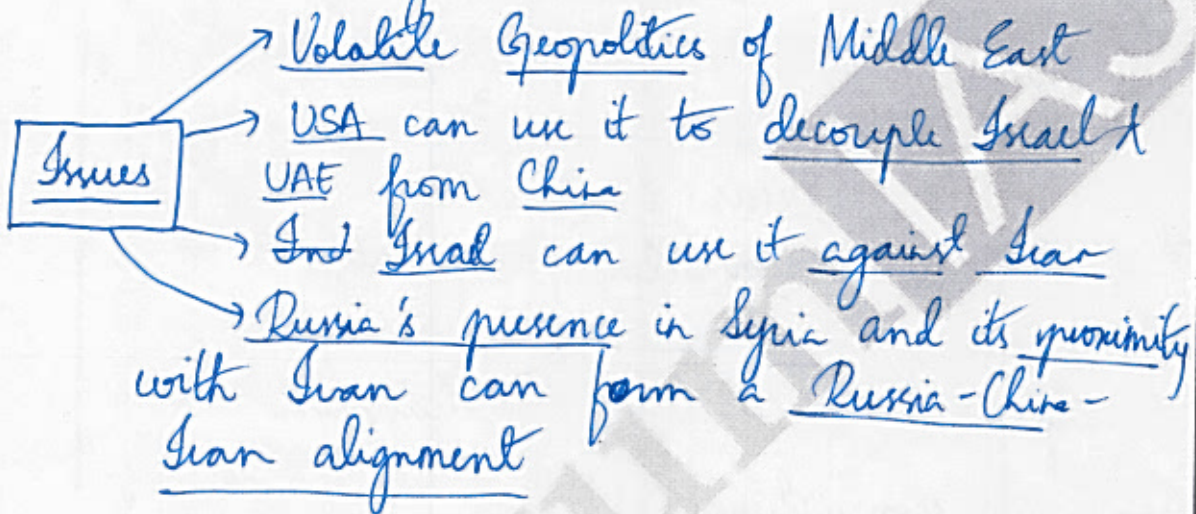
→ It looks the CEPA signed between India and UAE

→ Food security

Ensured through Food Parks



→ I2U2 provides a new avenue for cooperation with USA beyond QUAD



The I2U2 leverages India's good relations with Israel, Gulf and USA to build economic exchanges that are mutually beneficial.

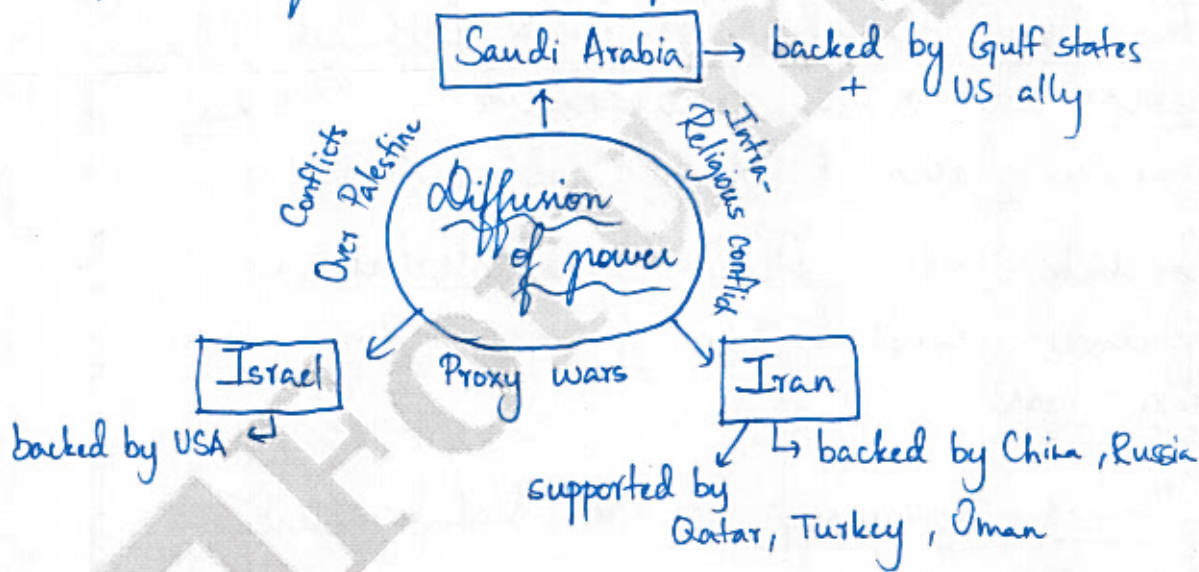
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Q.5)

The Middle East has become more multipolar, with power diffused among a variety of regional and extra-regional actors. Within this mix what should be India's approach that balances against different parties and their rivalries in Middle East?

The strategic location of the Middle East and India's multiple linkages from the past to the Present makes it immensely important for India's pursuit of power.



Issues

- (1) Qatar is a main point of contention within GCC. Most Saudi supporting states like UAE, Bahrain cut ties with Qatar, for being close to Iran

- (ii) Oman - close with Qatar and Iran at the expense of facing Saudi's ire
- (iii) Diminishing role of Saudi Arabia since 2003 Iraq invasion of USA
- (iv) Murder of Jamal Khashoggi
- (v) Qatar, Oman, Kuwait getting along well with Iran

Problems for India

- (i) The Israel - Arab conflict → Although Abraham accords are major breakthrough, other countries haven't signed it yet
- (ii) Conflicts within Arabs over sectarian differences, conflicts in Somalia & Yemen via proxy wars
- (iii) China's expanding role in Middle East

India's approach

- (i) Currently, India is limited to focusing on energy security in this region. There is a need to focus on new and long-term possibilities in economic cooperation

202 is a welcome step in this direction

- (ii) The turbulence in this region is an opportunity to build relations on fresh visions without taking sides in their areas of differences and rivalry by following a de-hyphenation policy
- (iii) India can capitalise on its own soft power and the strength of its huge diaspora in the region
- (iv) India can further leverage the Abraham accords to normalise Gulf-Israel relations.

With the rise in multipolarity in the Middle East, India can seize new possibilities in this region by milking on to rise in modern values and Khaliji capitalism in this region.

Overall Grading (✓)

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Q.6)

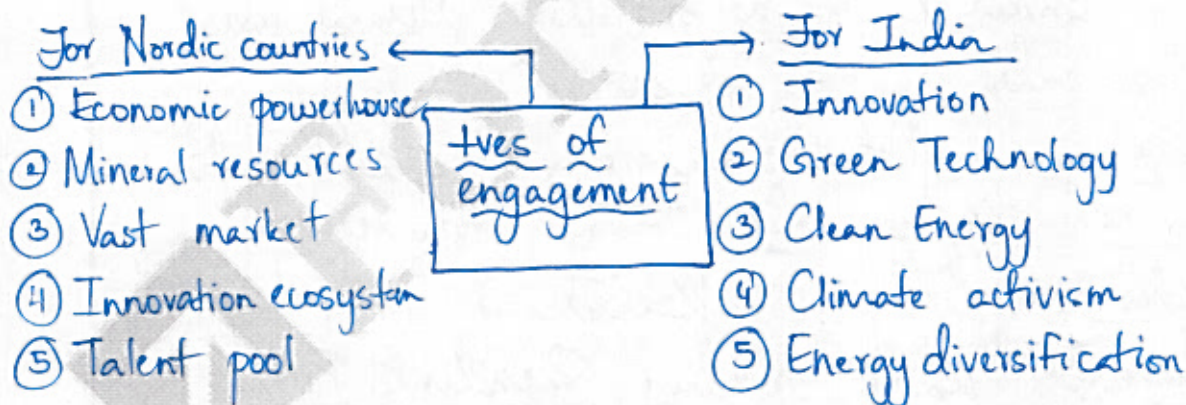
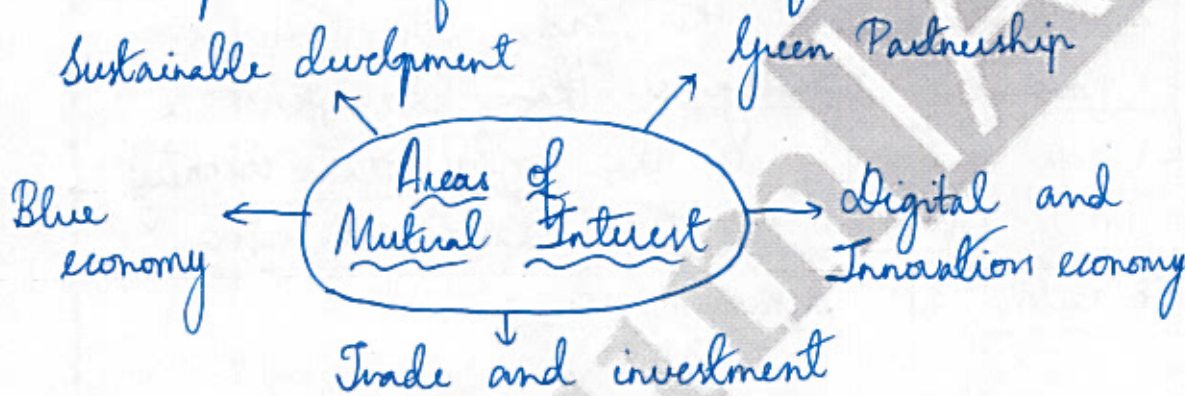
India - Nordic strategic relations are based on strong foundations of democratic values, institutional affinities, people-to-people contact and adherence to goals of a pluralistic society. Explain the immense potential India's engagement with the Nordic states has and the challenges it faces.

The India - Nordic partnership is increasingly seen in the recent times as a reckoning force towards strengthening the rules based system in the evolution of the 21st century world order.

Potential for India

- (i) India has invited Nordic countries to invest in the Sagarmala projects, reconstruction of water bodies to leverage potential of Blue economy.
- (ii) The Lead IT initiative has been set up to guide the world's heaviest greenhouse gas emitting industries.
- (iii) Indian initiatives like "Make in India", "Digital India", Clean Ganga mission provide tremendous opportunities for Nordic countries to invest in India.

- (iv) In the field of innovation cooperation, Nordic countries can help with smart cities and sustainability
- (v) India - Nordic relations are in synergy towards sustained green technology upgradation
- (vi) Cooperation regarding research in vaccines and development of health infrastructure
- Sustainable development
- Green Partnership



Issues

- (i) India's neutrality in Russia-Ukraine conflict
- With Russia's legitimacy weakening, India may have to rethink its bilateral and

- multilateral engagement with this region
- (ii) Sweden and Finland 's willingness to join NATO
 - (iii) Current bilateral trade with Nordic countries is very low at just \$13 billion

As seen, India and the Nordic countries have more points of convergence than divergence so much so that US is the only other country with which Nordic countries have exclusive collaboration at summit level

India's stand on the Ukraine war is an extension of India's strategic autonomy. Not condemning Russia's actions does not imply that India endorses Russia's aggression as was reflected in P.M Modi's statement while meeting President Putin at SCO summit in Samarkhand.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
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Q.7)

Can India rely completely on the International North-South Transport Corridor? What other options India needs to explore other than INSTC for its connectivity projects?

The INSTC (International North South Transport Corridor) is a multimodal transportation established in 2000 by Iran, Russia and India for promoting transportation cooperation among member states

- Expanded to include 11 new members including Azerbaijan, Turkey etc
- Regions covered - India, Iran, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia, Europe
- 7200 km long multimodal transport network of ship, rail and road routes

Importance

- (i) Acts as a counter to Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) → helps to cut down cost from India to Russia via Iran

- (ii) It synchronises with the Ashgabat agreement which allows for creating a transport corridor bridging Eurasia and Persian Gulf
- (iii) Can reduce costs by 40%.
- (iv) It can reduce time from 40 days to half of it
- (v) It can now bypass Pakistan to access Afghanistan, Central Asia and beyond

Issues

- (i) The PAKAFUZ proposal which is a 573 km railway line linking Tashkent - Kabul - Peshawar can act as a blockade
 - ↳ Can impact India's positioning in Chabahal
 - ↳ Makes Afghanistan less dependent on INSTC
 - ↳ Further dilutes India's position vis-a-vis China in Central Asia
- (ii) Sanctions on Iran have already delayed INSTC

Other options

India needs to explore other options in Indo-Pacific and Afro-Eurasia. These regions have more potential than INSTC

- (i) Israel had offered the TAC (Trans Arabian Connectivity) Corridor to India in 2014. India needs to rethink it
- (ii) Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Corridor → access to Russia's resource rich Far East
- (iii) Asia-Africa Growth Corridor could be revived → Africa's resources can help in India's growth

Therefore, India can explore options in the Indo-Pacific and Afro Eurasia instead of just concentrating on the INSTC, to balance regional hegemony.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
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