

TEST CODE 8 3 4 2 0 7

ATS 2025

Time Allowed : Three Hours

समय : तीन घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250

अधिकतम अंक : 250

POLITICAL SCIENCE & I.R/ राजनीतिक विज्ञान और आई.आर

Name Of Candidate

परीक्षार्थी का नाम

RAKHI

Roll No./अनुक्रमांक

191066684

Medium/माध्यम

English हिंदी

Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र

1900

Date/दिनांक

05-07-25

*Center Code : For Online - 1900 / Delhi : Karol bagh - 1901, ORN - 1902, Mukharji Nagar - 1903 / Patna : Boring Rd. - 2001 / Hyderabad : Jawahar Nagar - 2101

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका

INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश

Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक	
1			1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet. कृपया उत्तर पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।
2			2. There are EIGHT questions divided in two Sections in the question paper. Question 1 and 5 are compulsory. You can attempt any THREE out of the remaining, Choosing at least ONE Question from each section. प्रश्न पत्र में आठ प्रश्न दो खण्डों में विभाजित हैं। प्रश्न 1 और 5 अनिवार्य हैं। आप प्रत्येक खंड से कम से कम एक प्रश्न चुनकर, शेष में से किसी भी तीन का प्रयास कर सकते हैं।
3			3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के लिए निर्धारित अंक उसके सामने अंकित किए गए हैं।
4			4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।
5			5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाए। प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गये किसी भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ के भाग को स्पष्ट रूप से काट दें।
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
Total/कुल अंक	250		

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Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक :

Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :

End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :

1:00 PM

4:00 P.M

Total Marks/कुल अंक :

Mode Of Examination/
परीक्षा की विधि :Online/ऑनलाइन Offline/ऑफलाइन

For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु

*Examiner's Discretion is the marks awarded at the discretion of the examiner based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy.

मूल्यांकन कर्ता का विवेक अंक आपकी लिखावट प्रस्तुति आरेखों के उपयोग फ्लोचार्ट, तथ्यों और आंकड़ों या समय रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु जो मूल्यांकन कर्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।

ECN CODE/
ईसीएन कोड :

EG/ईजी :

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Evaluation Date/
मूल्यांकन तिथि :

Note: Students are expected to incorporate suggestions from the feedback provided in the answers. Discussion classes for the tests are also available online in your portal to aid in your preparation. Further, students are requested to see the good copies of the tests and learn from them. You can also discuss your copy with a Mentor and discover ways and means to improve your answers, or if you have any issues with this test / copy. Ask specific questions, to get specific answers.

EXAMINER'S REMARKS

CRITERIA FOR THE FEEDBACK SECTION AT THE END OF EACH QUESTION

1. **AWIS – Answered What is Asked.** This means whether you have addressed the core demand of the question or not. Addressing the core demand of the question gets you an objectively fair score. It is examiner's perception if you have understood the question and if you know the answer in the first place. Creative answer writing, sometimes missing the core demand, may fetch very high or very low scores, and exposes your answer to the subjectivity of the examiner.
2. **CD & VA – Content Density & Value Addition.** Examiner will evaluate the quality and quantity of your content in the answer. In the same word limit and space limit have you (a) written what is asked (b) gone beyond what is asked (c) enriched answers through combination of (but not all!) suggestions, ideas, quotes, flowcharts, diagrams, facts and figures, data etc. This affects objective components of assessment.
3. **S & F – Structure & Flow** – Whether you have structured your answer properly or not. Whether the answer has been broken into parts and sub-parts and each part has been addressed appropriately or not. Whether the flow of the answer is maintained. Affects both subjective and objective components of assessment.
4. **P & R** – How your answer performs on the criteria of **presentation, ease of read, clarity and apparent effort** in writing the answer. This affects the subjective components of assessment.

Section - A

Q.1) Write approximately 150 words on each of the following:

a) Comment: The political instability in Bangladesh has significant implications both on security and developmental efforts in North East India. (10 Marks)

Bangladesh in 2025, experienced regime change with the PM Sheikh Hasina being ousted by the student protest, who was forced to take refuge in India.

This political instability is not new is not new and has been occurring in the nation since the assassination of ~~the~~ P.M in 1975.

India shares 3000 km of border with Bangladesh (largest with any nation) making it susceptible to any changes.

Recently, the interim leader of Bangladesh described North eastern states of India as being overdependent

on it for survival, depicting pro-China stand. This shows fear of diminished trade movement which was also apprehended by C. Rajamohan.

Also, the rise of refugee after 1971 liberation war has changed the demographic profile of states (eg) Assam, which is being neutralised by Assam Accord.

Moreover, land border disputes continue, despite it being handled by land border Agreement of 2015.

The insurgents of north east (eg) NSCN have been financed through Bangladesh by China. Moreover, there is fear of blocking the chicken corridor (Siliguri) connecting mainland to NE India.

Water sharing treaties with state (eg) West Bengal (Teesta river) which is referred to as ulmus test of the relations.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	G	A	P
AWIS			
CD & VA			
S & F			
P & R			
Please put tick marks in the above table			
Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

b) Comment: India's policy towards Post-civil war Sri Lanka.

(10 Marks)

Sri Lanka experienced civil war during 1970's and 1980's, after the experience of anti Tamil riots in the Northern province, where forced Sinhalese settlement, led to alienation among plantation Tamils (4-5% of population)

India, under leadership of Rajiv Gandhi signed the peace agreement with Sri Lankan government under Jayawardhana, promising end to war, respect for sovereignty and recognition of Tamil as official language.

The civil war ended in 2009, which was followed by rise of Tamil refugee, from Sri Lanka to Tamil

Nadu. This led to growth of sympathy for Tamilians.

This culminated in India voting against Sri Lanka in UDHR against H.R. Violation against Tamils. This led to bitter relations and Sri Lanka grew closer to China, resulting in its higher presence in Indian ocean (eg) lease of Hambantota port for 99 years.

India reacted by building ports such as Tricomalee and Columbo to regain its influence. It has allied with US, Japan to maintain its influence (eg) by joining QUAD. Also, after recent economic crisis in Sri Lanka, it provided \$4 billion humanitarian aid.

Thus, as per Shyam Shankar Menon, Sri Lanka is an unsinkable aircraft carrier ship and India is just 41 miles away.

Feedback

FOR OFFICE use only			
#	G	A	P
AWIS			
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Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

c) Comment: Reasons for the failure of SAARC as a regional grouping organization.

(10 Marks)

SAARC is south Asian regional organisation formed in 1985, so as to ensure co-ordination among immediate neighbours and implement neighbourhood 1st policy of India and promote India as a leader of global south.

However, it failed to realise its objectives and no more conducts regular meetings and has failed to enforce SAFTA agreement.

The reason partly goes to hostile relations between India and Pakistan, especially after the 2017 Uri Attack and the recent Pahalgam attack. According to PM Modi's trade

and terror can't go together^d.

Moreover, there have been alternative organisations @ BIMSTEC, which doesn't include Pakistan and serves as a link between India and South East Asia, which was not present in SAARC.

Also, the connivance of China along with Pakistan to limit the success of SAARC has resulted in more Pakistan relations with China @ by CPEC.

Thus, the need is for better co-ordination and it is time for India to act as a true leader and shed the image of big brother in the region, and consider its strategic autonomy and territorial integrity as priority.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	C	A	P
AWIS			
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Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

d) Highlight the importance of the North-East as a gateway to Southeast Asia.

(10 Marks)

North East India proves a geographic advantage to India as it shares 1600 km border with Myanmar which can connect it to the SE Asian countries.

In terms of trade, it can serve to promote transport connect via projects such as Trilateral Highway and Kaladan Multimodal Transit route, which provide land route to SE Asia.

Moreover, culturally, it is more near to the region, which shares Buddhist culture, which has been strengthened by the Buddhist circuit connecting countries such as Cambodia and Vietnam.

Also, they also share people-people connect, with Indian diaspora settled in the region, promoting soft power of the nation.

North east region also has historical connect with SE Asia (eg) during the ancient silk route and during the colonial rule, when plantation workers were shifted to nations (eg) Thailand.

Also, the reg NE states also as easier mode of trade especially in Free Trade Region (eg) ASEAN.

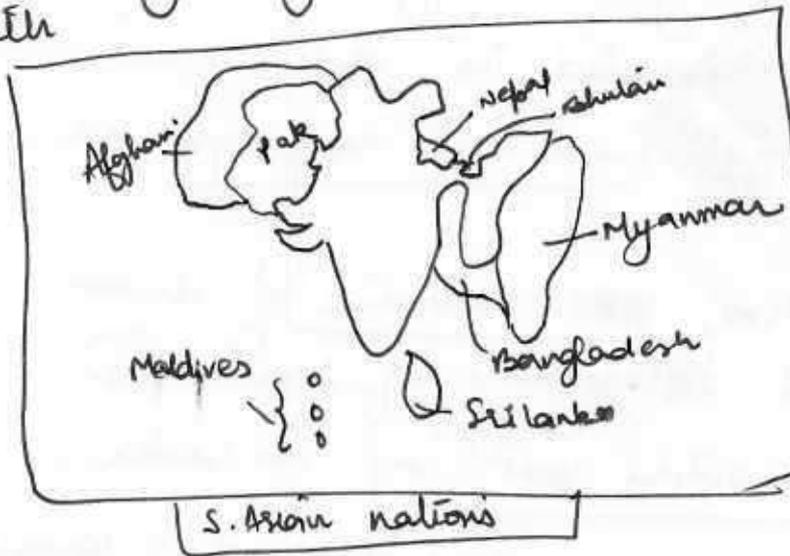
Thus, stability in NE India determines its relations with SE Asia as emphasised by Rajiv Bhatia.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)			
#	⊖	⊕	⊙
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Please put tick marks in the above table. Here ⊖ is Good, ⊕ is Average and ⊙ is Poor			
TOTAL MARKS			

e) Comment: Impediments to trade facilitation in South Asia.

(10 Marks)

South Asia is a region south of Himalayas and east of Iran, surrounding by Indian ocean in the south



They share historical, geographical boundaries as well as common culture, but face various impediments especially in trade.

First of all, India and Pakistan share bitter past of partition which has led to suspension of trade

relations, impacting other nations as well.

Moreover, rise in china's influence has led to political instability in border nations (eg) Bangladesh, Myanmar, Maldives which has resulted in anti-India sentiments (eg) India out campaign in Maldives.

Also, BRI initiative of china has impacted sovereignty of India (eg) CPEC, Hambantota port by Sri Lanka. This has also risen debt trap of S. Asian nations.

Moreover, it serves as a link between Golden crescent and golden triangle route, leading to drug trafficking and rise of organised crime & terrorism.

Thus, need is for better co-ordination and level of leader and promote trade (eg) SAFTA.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

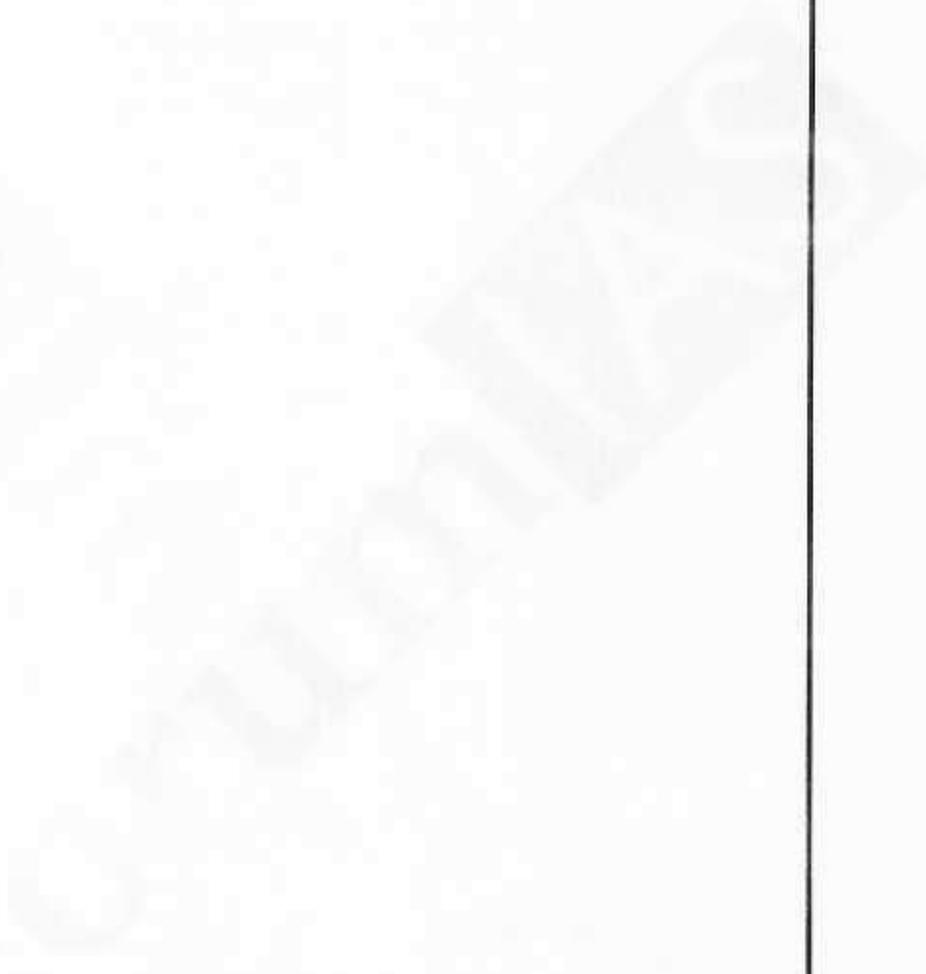
#	(C)	(A)	(P)
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Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			



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Q.2) a) 'Domestic problems and historic legacies, apart from other factors, constitute major strains on Indian Foreign Policy.' Discuss this statement with suitable examples.

(20 Marks)



Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

P	G	A	P
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CD & VA			
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Please put circle marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

b) 'The major challenges that India faces in its engagement with Southeast Asia require a nuanced understanding of the region's complexities'. Comment (15 Marks)

NOTED

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	(A)	(B)	(C)
AWB			
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Please put tick marks in the above table.
Don't use line, A to Answer and P to Poor.

TOTAL MARKS	
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c) Discuss the significance of economic diplomacy in India's foreign policy, highlighting its key objectives, challenges, and opportunities in the post-pandemic world.

(15 Marks)

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			



Q.3) a) Analyze Nepal's decision to join China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its implications for India's strategic interests and regional stability in South Asia. (20 Marks)

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Feedback

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Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			



b) 'India's contribution to the Non Alignment Movement has been based on both idealist and realist calculations.' Comment

(15 Marks)

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Feedback

(For GPF/CF use only)

#	⊖	⊕	⊖
AWB			
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Please put tick marks in the above table.

Here ⊕ is Good, ⊖ is Average and P is Poor

TOTAL MARKS:	
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c) The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, or SAARC, has fallen short of expectations. Discuss. What steps should be done to revitalize the organization?

(15 Marks)

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	(C)	(A)	(B)
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P & R			
Please put tick marks in the above table. Here C is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

Q.4) a) Examine the role of various institutions and actors in shaping India's foreign policy.

(20 Marks)

India's foreign policy refers to the interaction of India with other nations with primary aim of national interest i.e. sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The foreign Policy of India is shaped by various actors and institutions and is the task of adept co-ordination among all the stakeholders.

First of all, the cabinet members of the government plays important role in framing the policy with help of cabinet committee on security, chaired by P.M.. It was

given huge powers during the Nehru
era, leading to NAM and India
Grandhi, leading to Pokhran Test

Second, Parliament / Senate

plays important role in framing the
 policy and ensuring transparency and
 accountability. However, it is more para-
 lent in USA and India's parliament
 has limited role in foreign policy
 (dominated by executive decisions)

Also in India, PMO plays
 important role, which shapes the foreign
policy, leading to it being a centralised
 & decision, devoid of participation
 by people at large

The Ministry of external affairs through its ambassadors and IFS officers helps in implementing the policy decisions and promoting cordial relations at international level. However, as per Parsons commission and ISSANA, it suffers from staff shortage (even less than other BRICS nations) and face overburden in work leading to delays.

Moreover, the ~~non-go~~ National Security Council which includes the NSA, formulates the foreign policy in a highly centralised way ^(eg) Civil nuclear deal with US under Jaswant Singh (Foreign Minister) and Brijesh Mishra (NSA)

Also, non-government groups (eg) Business groups and Media plays an important role as described by S Muni.
Media acts as 4th pillar of democracy making the policy makers accountable, but fails to actualise its potential due to lack of comprehensive business model and pro-government stand.

Moreover, business lobbies help promulgate India's interest at international stage (eg) funding of ORF website by Adani group.

This, need is for higher decentralisation and promotion of expertise in decision making promoting equal representation enhancing democracy.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	G	A	P
AWIS			
CD & VA			
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P & R			
Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

b) Critically analyze the evolving India-Maldives relations in light of recent political shifts and growing external influences in the Indian Ocean. How can India safeguard its strategic and regional interests?

(15 Marks)

India and Maldives recently suffer setbacks in its relations evident in the recent India-out campaign in the elections in 2024.

Maldives is a very close neighbour of India in the Indian ocean which not only shares the ocean boundaries but have common historical, cultural, political roots.

During the colonial era, plantation workers were taken from India to the island, causing them to settle there, making the largest

diaspora of the nation.

Also, majority of the population practice Islam, which is the 2nd largest religion in India, establishing common cultural roots.

Moreover, tourism sector contributes largely to Maldives economy with India as top contributor of tourists. Also, India has also provided financial aid to the island nation @ operation NEEB

However, with the rise of China's influence in the region and its BR1 initiative and string of pearl Theory in Indian ocean, has established its political and economic clout in the nation. This has resulted in ousting of Indian military stationed for defense

of Maldives territory.

Moreover, China has spread its investment (eg) \$ 200 million friendship bridge with Maldives. This has impacted existing projects in the region.

In order to safeguard India's interest, the need is for better investment focussing on grants (more than loans), differentiating from debt trap policy of China. Also, people-people contact is essential for soft power diplomacy and win the trust of common people.

Thus, the need is for continuous engagement, despite rising differences to counter rise of China, secure important trade route, promote Research & Development and help in enrichment of quality of life promoting India as leader of global south.

 Feedback
(For OFFICE use only)

	S	A	A	D
Q. No.				

c) "The relevance of non-alignment has diminished in the face of American hegemony and the rise of China." Analyze in the context of India's foreign policy.

(15 Marks)

Non Alignment Movement
is a brainchild of Pt. Nehru established after the Bandung conference of 1955, to follow policy of principled distance, during the cold war era.

During the cold war era, it prevented it from taking any sides and helped in promoting its own economic interest, preventing influence of neo-colonialism.

However, after the end of cold war and rise of unipolar world order (end of ideology by Fukuyama), it has lost its sheen.

Yet, it was tried to remain

relevant owing to emotional attachment of Congress and to check dominance by superpower (Havana Agenda).

However, with US Hegemony, its relations with US improved evident in the Civil Nuclear Deal of 2005.

Also, with rise of China, the hegemony of US has declined, requiring for India to change its foreign policy stance.

This has led to changing from principled distance theory to engage with multiple countries in the Multipolar world order.

From the NAM era, where nuclear disarmament was favoured,

rise of new powers have necessitated for Arms race and nuclear deterrence to maintain strategic autonomy and territorial integrity.

Also, it has led to more pragmatic foreign policy decisions, both focus on policy of engagement wherever feasible and policy of containment, wherever necessary.

India is also shifting towards balancing acts i.e. as part of multiple alliances (eg Quad (to contain China) and BRICS (to balance USA)), reflecting the flexibility of its foreign policy and focus on both continuity and change (Pythagoras)

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	Q	A	D
AMR			
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P & H			

Please put tick marks in the above table.

From G to Good, A is Average and P is Pass.

TOTAL MARKS	
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Section- B

Q.5) Write approximately 150 words on each of the following:

a) Comment: Impact of economic corridors in South Asian countries.

(10 Marks)

South Asian countries represents India at the centre and other nations such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh.

Historically, it served as important route for trade (eg) Silk Trade, which recently in 1985 was tried between SAARC nations by SAFTA agreement.

However, due to internal disagreements it failed (eg) India - Pakistan relations, resulting in halting of economic relations of the region.

Thus, further corridors

have been explored, such as BIMSTEC, BBIN, which not only promotes trade in the region but also acts a link to SE Asian nations via Myanmar.

(eg) - Kabaddan Multimodal Transit

Moreover, China has aimed for more routes (eg) CPEC, which has adversely impacted India's territorial sovereignty as it passes through LOC.

Also, debt trap has risen in the neighbouring nations due to the OBOR policy of china.

Yet, it has proved important for its economy, trade relations and opening new communication channels (eg) INSTC route connecting to Russia and future IMEC route, connecting it to entire Europe.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	(C)	(A)	(P)
AWIS			
CD & VA			
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Please put tick marks in the above table. Here C is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

b) Comment: Significance of Non-Alignment 2.0 in the current global scenario.

(10 Marks)

Non-Alignment Movement (NAM)

was brainchild of Pt. Nehru, who aimed to co-ordinate with other nations of south, who recently gained independence and adopted a principled distance from the 2 superpowers during the cold war era.

However, after end of cold war in 1990, it was rendered useless and lost its sheen. But, owing to current geopolitical scenario (eg) Russia-Ukraine war and Iran-Israel conflict, the question of NAM 2.0 has again arisen.

However, India under the leadership of PM Modi has refuted

any such policy as this is a multipolar world, which requires equal coordination with all. The priority is to be given to strategic autonomy and national interest.

Moreover, alignment with any one group can draw enmity from the other. Thus, India's current approach must be of a balancer, which is evident in its joining both Quad and BRICS.

Also, the more immediate threat of India is from China, which can be balanced by engaging with both Russia and USA.

Thus, NAM led to more failure for India than success, rendering it unwelcomed in current scenario.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

Q	C	A	P
AWIS			
CD & VA			
F & F			
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Please put tick marks in the above table. Here C is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

c) Comment: List out the Objectives of New international economic order and demands from the global south.

(10 Marks)

New International Economic Order (NIEO) was proposed under the leadership of India, during the 1970's to propose non economic policies and move towards social welfare in the world where influence of capitalism was growing.

The main objective was to address the unique demands of the global south, which were newly de-colonised and were mired in poverty, malnourishment, illiteracy and higher income inequality.

Thus, the countries of the

global south demanded for better wealth distribution by the MNCs in the form of progressive taxation, social welfare policies and CSR activities by the capitalist.

It was held by these nations that developed nations had a historical responsibility towards the poor as they had marginalised ~~the~~ owing to years of imperial subjugation.

Although, the nations of global south agreed to the NIEO at Algiers, the developed nations failed to satisfy it, considering it as ~~an~~ inclination towards socialist and communist values.

As recommended by Amaritya Sen and J. Stiglitz, it has to be the MNC's responsibility to ensure social justice.

Feedback
 (For OFFICE use only)

#	C	A	P
AWIS			
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P & R			
Please put tick marks in the above table. Here C is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

d) Comment: India's use of aid and economic diplomacy to advance its developmental alliance with neighbouring and third world countries.

(10 Marks)

India by its NAM policy (Bandung conference, 1955) and policies such as Neighbourhood 1st policy of 2005 and Act East Policy of 2014, prioritise the neighbouring as well as nations of south.

It has been consistently using soft diplomacy as a tool to develop relations with neighbours, which has got huge potential (Shashi Tharoor)

It has been consistently supporting the global south in times of disaster (e.g) operation Sadbhavana during Typhoon Yegi, for nations such as

Laos, Vietnam. Moreover, during covid 19, it provided discounted vaccines under its Vaccine Maitri initiative.

During Sri Lankan economic crisis in 2024, it provided \$4 billion aid in the form of grants. Also, it has provided humanitarian aid in Afghanistan in form of food grains.

Apart from this, it has tried to strengthen its trade relations (eg) Sri Lanka (Trincomalee); Mauritius (Agalga step); & Bhutan (Gelephu Mindfulness city); Nepal (hydropower sector), aiming to develop the nations and promote and utilise its soft diplomacy.

Thus, India can lead the global south by promoting the ideals of Vasudhaiva Kutumbham.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	G	A	P
AMIS			
CD & VA			
S & F			
T & R			
Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor			
TOTAL MARKS			

e) Comment: India's rise as the voice of the Global South.

(10 Marks)

India has emerged as the global leader of south as was evident in the meeting of Vog at New Delhi in 2024.

This has been evident by its initiative during NAM agreement, which aimed to reduce influence of cold war and neo-colonialism among the south.

It is the fastest growing economy in region with its GDP being \$ 4 trillion (4th largest), making India in a position to engage with world leaders.

Also, it has plethora of skilled and semi skilled demography, which act as a mediator and a lobby.

in nations such as USA, gulf nations in the form of indian diaspora.

Moreover, its military strength is one of the best in the world, which it has used time & again for security of others (eg) 1971 Bangladesh liberation war, Brahmos to Phillipines.

Also, it has used its aids for humanitarian purpose (eg) Vaccine Maitri, operation Karama, \$4 billion aid to Sri Lanka.

However, it has continuously been challenged by rise of china and its BRI policy (eg) Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka, India-out campaign in Maldives.

Thus, need is for use of both soft as well as hard power to promote its leadership role in global south (J. Nye)

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	⊖	⊕	⊙
AWIS			
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Please put tick marks in the above table.			
Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

Q.6) a) The story of India and Africa's partnership embodies a fair, consultative, and cooperative relationship. Given that major power fault lines are becoming more acute globally, India's growing engagement with Africa could be advantageous to both continents equally. Critically examine. (20 Marks)

India strengthened its rising partnership with Africa, when under India's Q20 leadership, AU became its permanent member.

Historically, Africa can be called a 'mother continent' for India, as they were both part of Gondwana, million of years ago. This connection was strengthened by exchange of trade during the Harappan civilisation (with Mesopotamia) and was carried forward in the Ancient Silk route.
 During the colonial era,

workers from India were taken for plantation work in African nations (eg) South Africa, which has history of Mahatma Gandhi, working for the indentured labourers.

After the independence of India and other African nations (eg) Ghana, Egypt, the need was felt to develop unique policy and remain immune from neo-colonialism. Thus Non Alignment Movement was adopted

after the Asia-Africa summit, with involvement of leaders (eg) Kwame Nkrumah.

However, there have been geopolitical issues arising (eg) Iran-Israel war, large number of coups & civil wars

(eg) Sudan, BRI policy of China, leading to debt trap among the poor nations and higher impact of climate change.

This has led to India getting more involved to uplift the marginalised and ignored nations of Africa, evident in PM Modi's recent visit to Ghana.

This not only would help in countering China's rise, but benefit India economically as ~~the~~ Africa is home to various untapped resources (eg)

Cobalt in DRC.

Moreover, India along with Japan has invested for Africa-Asia Economy corridor, for infrastructure development in the region improving its

connectivity with the world.

In the sphere of soft diplomacy it also aims for promoting skill, education to disrupt the vicious cycle of poverty (eg) IIT Bellu campus at Tanzania.

However, much needs to be done, especially in the diplomatic front as current policies are more focussed towards East Asia. Also, political instability has hampered development projects which can be improved by providing job opportunities proving beneficial for both nations.

Thus, Africa is starting to climb the ladder of growth, ~~which~~ and India can push it from behind to reach the top sooner.

Feedback
 (For OFFICER use only)

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Please put tick marks in the above table.				
Here G is Good, A is Average and F is Fair				
TOTAL MARKS				

b) Bring out the impact of the Ukrainian crisis on India's foreign policy and relations. (15 Marks)

India's foreign policy refers to the approach of India towards relations with other nations, which depends on both internal as well as external factors, impacting its national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The recent Russia-Ukraine crisis impacts not only the geopolitics and geo-economics of the world, but also India's foreign policy to a large extent.

India has always sided with peace and aim for mediation in dispute resolution. Also, it has been historically close to Russia,

after the 1971 friendship treaty and its defense and trade relations with it (eg) S-400 Trumf Missile system and Russia being the largest supplier of defense in 2024 (SIPRI report, 2024)

However, Ukraine is pro-west and inclined towards west. This has impacted the foreign policy decisions of India and raised dilemma regarding the international stance.

As before, the government has chosen to remain on both sides, preferring multilateral negotiations with both west & Russia. It has prioritised strategic interest and

autonomy in its trade relations (eg) Import from Russia of oil despite sanctions. Moreover, it has continued to engage both with anti-west organisation (eg) BRICS & pro-west (eg) QUAD, prioritising multipolar world.

however, this has led to hostile nature of both Russia & USA, calling India diabolical, hampering its stand w.r.t. border disputes with Pakistan (eg) operation Sindoor, rendering the stand more cost than benefit.

As per S. Jaishankar, India was, is and will always remain on side of peace and refuse to take part in any alliance system for its non national interest.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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Please put tick marks in the appropriate boxes					
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TOTAL MARKS					

c) Comment on India's economic and strategic clout in South Asia, especially when compared to China. Bring out the economic, commercial, and connectivity measures can India take to improve its standing? (15 Marks)

India projects itself as the leader of global south, especially after its role in New Alignment Movement.

However, it failed to focus on its immediate neighbours in South Asia, resulting in China striving to clout its influence by investment @ BRI.

This made India rise from its slumber and focus on its S. Asian neighbours evident in Neighbourhood Policy of 2008 and Act East Policy of 2014.

India have contributed to economy of S. Asia by various infrastructure projects (eg) Kaladoun Multimodal Transit route, passing through Myanmar, connecting it to SE Asia. However, China has been able to achieve far major success by its string of pearl Theory in Indian ocean (eg) lease of Hambantota port in Sri Lanka.

Also, for the security of all in the region, it carries out military exercise (eg) Bongo sagar with Bangladesh and supplies weapons to nations (eg) Maldives. However, political instability (eg) Myanmar, Bangladesh,

Pakistan, has increased China's debt in the region.

Thus, India needs to take economic measures (eg) Letter of credit and providing grants as was done in Maldives and Sri Lanka (eg) \$4 billion grant to Sri Lanka in 2024

Moreover, investment by private players (eg) Adani has led to creation of more jobs and FDI, helping in growth of GDP (eg) Trincomalee port.

It has also established connectivity, which can be enhanced by promoting stability and dealing with the present regime, despite their ideological inclination (eg) in Bangladesh, Myanmar

Thus, need is for pragmatic policy and generate free trade as was envisioned via SAFTA.

Feedback
(For OFFICE use only)

#	Q	A	P
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Please put tick marks in the above table. Here Q is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			



Q.7) a) As a pillar of India's foreign policy, critically assess the Neighbourhood First strategy. What are its advantages and disadvantages, and what effects has it had on India's ties with its neighbors in South Asia? (20 Marks)

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Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

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Please put tick marks in the above table.
Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor

TOTAL MARKS	
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b) Examine the challenges that have hindered India's engagement with Latin America, including geographical distance, logistical difficulties, and competition from other major powers. (15 Marks)

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	C	A1	P
AWR			
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Please put tick marks in the above table.
Here C is Good, A is Average and P is Pass.

TOTAL MARKS	
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c) "Co-existential task of India's foreign policy aimed at ensuring its role in the international arena consistently include continuation of an independent foreign policy and obtain the status of great power recognized by world community". In the context of the above statement, discuss India's position in the world. (15 Marks)

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	C	A	P
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Please put tick marks in the above table.
Here C is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.

TOTAL MARKS	
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Q.8) a) "India's 'Look East' policy reflects a pragmatic shift in its foreign policy to address regional challenges." Evaluate (20 Marks)

After the 1991 LPG reforms,
land border were opened to establish
free trade and India's policy shifted
from state centric to open and
liberalised

Thus, 1994 led to the
formulation of look East policy, which
was focussed on the regions of
South East Asia, which shares
demography, culture, religion with
that of India (eg) Buddhism.

This was also necessitated
due to the rise of china and the
growth of its clout on the S.E.

Asian nations -

The policy has served as a bed rock for change of foreign policy by India, where SE Asian neighbours are equally prioritised for economic relations to that of USA and Russia.

Also, as per Shashi Tharoor, India has a huge soft power potential in the form of Bollywood, food, religion, culture, which can be utilised for better enrichment of its diplomatic relations.

It has also led to establishment of Gujral doctrine of 1996, promoting non-reciprocity in relations with neighbours i.e. doing for the

smaller nations without expecting anything in return.
Moreover, Neighbourhood ^{1st}
policy ⁽²⁰⁰⁵⁾ and Act East policy of ~~2014~~ 2014
has made this theory into practical terms.

The result is the trade relations with SE Asian nations (eg) by ASEAN, BIMSTEC and also connectivity measures (eg) Kaladan multimodal transit via Myanmar.

Also, there is huge potential for people-people relations via cultural exchange (eg) Buddhist circuit, promoting power of soft diplomacy.
India has also not refrained

from providing military and defense equipments for the security of the region (eg) BrahMos to Philippines;

It has also helped in limiting china's influence in S. China Sea, which it imposes by its claim via a dash line.

Moreover, it promotes easy flow of trade via Malacca Strait through Indian ocean by initiatives (eg) SAGAR, preventing influence of piracy, disaster (eg) Typhoon Tegi and interference of china for its easy trade movement.

Thus, India's shift towards east promotes Kautilya's policy of engaging with allies in the neighbourhood to form alliances to counter the natural ally (eg) China.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	G	A	P
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Please put tick marks in the above table. Here G is Good, A is Average and P is Poor.			
TOTAL MARKS			

b) Discuss the feasibility and prospects of feminist foreign policy for India.

(15 Marks)

Foreign Policy of India reflects its relation with other nations and achieve aim for national security and territorial integrity.

However, as per Carol Cobo in her book "Beaches, Bananas, Bares", she asks a relevant question, "where are all the women?" pointing out the absence of women from international politics due to entrenched patriarchy in society and connection of men with men.

Indian society is the perfect case study for the prevalence of patriarchy.

mindset owing to its history of Vedas and scriptures (eg manusmriti).

A feminist foreign policy would focus on engaging women in policy decisions and as ambassadors and as leaders in political and social spheres.

According to the feminists, the women in decision making roles can better ensure peace & security as they are most impacted by war crimes (eg sexual harassment in refugee camps such as Rohingya and as was seen in Partition).

This would require female leaders as foreign Ministers, for IFS

officers and as diplomats.

This was recently made evident, when during operation Sindoor, female officers were taking the frontier role, exemplifying the potential of female.

However, as per Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, there is no empirical evidence for aversion of war among women and presence of even women leaders (e.g. Indira Gandhi) involved in 1971 Bangladesh liberation war.

Thus, feminist foreign policy is feasible by addressing female issues, by female leaders and trying for reducing gender disparity by education, health facilities and promote safety for immigrants & refugees.

Feedback

(For OFFICE use only)

#	(C)	(A)	(B)
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Please put tick marks in the above cells			
Mark U or Good, A or Average and P is Poor			
TOTAL MARKS			

c) Critically evaluate the impact of the security aspect in the Indian Ocean region on India's foreign policy priorities and strategies. (15 Marks)

As per Alfred T Mahan,
Indian ocean is the link to the
7 seas and "one who would control
the ocean, would control the world"

Indian ocean entails
60% of international trade with seychelles
as its western border and Malacca
strait serving as its exit point
and entry to the Pacific.

India is a world island,
which according to Mackinder is the
most strategic position to become
a world leader. India is surrounded
by 3 sides by Indian ocean with

Coastal length of 7200 km.

However, various security issues arise in the ocean. First of all, China through its OBOR initiative is trying to encircle the ocean and form string of pearls by establishing ports (eg) in Guadar, Hambantota.

This has made India to shift its foreign policy and promote port development (eg) Duqm port (Oman), Tricomalee (Sri Lanka), Sabang port (Indonesia), Andaman & Nicobar Islands development.

Second concern is related to piracy (eg) from Somalia, which hampers trade route. Thus, India resort

to military exercise (eg) Malabar and initiative (eg) SAGAR; and infrastructure in island nation (eg) Agalega airstrip in Mauritius.

Also, the region is susceptible to natural disaster (eg) Tsunami, Cyclone, leading it to promote cooperation with other nations and provide humanitarian aid (eg) operation Sankshamana during Typhoon Yagi.

However, further need is for people-people interaction due to rise of political instability (eg) Bangladesh and rise of anti India sentiments (eg) Maldives, making it essential for utilisation of smart power i.e. both soft and hard power (Joseph Nye)

Feedback

(For OFSTCE use only)

#	G	A	P
AWM			
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TOTAL MARKS			

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