

Test Code: 31021

FIAS – 2020 – GS21A/B

**ForumIAS**

ACADEMY

**GENERAL STUDIES**

Name Of Candidate	SUBHADHARSHINI . M.		
Email Id.		Roll No.	1910042311
Mobile No.		Date:	18/07/2020

Time Allowed: One and Half Hours

Maximum Marks: 125

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION		
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	<p>1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.</p> <p>2. There are TEN questions printed in ENGLISH, all questions are compulsory.</p> <p>3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/ Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>		
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<b>Total Marks:</b>					
<b>Remarks:</b>			<b>Start Time  </b>	<b>End Time  </b>	
			<b>Mode Of Examination :</b>		Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>
			<b>ECN CODE:</b>		<b>Evaluation Date:</b>

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Handwriting						
Content						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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Q.1) The recent decision to dissociate from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), is not merely a geo-political call. Critically examine.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership is a 15-member economic organisation of ASEAN with 5 other countries with free trading agreements.

## India quit RCEP

- ⇒ India's decision to quit RCEP is due to
- \* increasing trade deficits with ASEAN [₹100 billion] & with China [₹56 billion]
  - \* Free trade with RCEP may affect domestic industries due to possible imports from other countries like dairy (from Australia & New Zealand) agri produce (from Indonesia) etc...
  - \* protest by farmers & other industries against RCEP.
  - \* India's manufacturing sector is still weak to make exports, because it rely on raw material imports from China etc... Thus our economy is largely agricultural & import dependent.

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⇒ India's demand of opening up markets for service sector is not accepted: Thus leading to fear of more deficit.

⇒ India's demand for mentioning of "origin of product" for goods was also not accepted.

## Pro's

- can reduce further deficits
- strengthen domestic industries
- weaken imports from china

## Con's

- Integration into global market would have led to more competitive markets
- people would have got more choices
- market diversification

Thus India has its own strengths & weaknesses in joining RCEP and it should not be only seen from geo-political angle of opposing china.

### Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		<b>Total :</b>	

Q.2) Different sectors of our border pose different sets of challenges and complexities that cannot be resolved by a one size fits all policy. Highlight some effective measures required to tackle the challenges faced by the security forces deployed in the border areas.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Border management in India is unique & challenging owing to its vast land & sea boundaries & varied topographies.

Challenges in different Border Areas

- ⇒ India-Pakistan border → Manned by Indian Army and BSF faces risks like infiltration, cross-border shelling etc... Highly tense areas include Pakistan occupied Kashmir [LoC]; Siachen Glacier; Sir Creek area which are disputed sites.
- ⇒ India-China → Except the middle sector, both western [Aksai chin area] and Eastern Sector [entire Arunachal Pradesh] are highly disputed areas.
- ⇒ porous boundaries with Nepal, Bhutan & Bangladesh. and 16-km free zone movement with Myanmar poses threats.
- ⇒ entire coastline of India faces various security threats.

Measures Required

- ⇒ Recommendations of Madhav Godbole Committee for India-Pakistan border must be followed & actions taken soon.
- ⇒ Comprehensive modernization of border areas as mentioned by Shekhar panel
- ⇒ ~~CRPF~~ <sup>BSF</sup> must be freed of their counter-insurgency actions which is to be taken care of by CRPF, so that they can focus on border management.
- ⇒ Theater Commands to work on different areas like deserts, glacier areas must be formed. thus withdrawing "one size fits all" approach.

The formation of Chief of Defence Staff is in the right direction for effective border management.

Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		<b>Total :</b>	

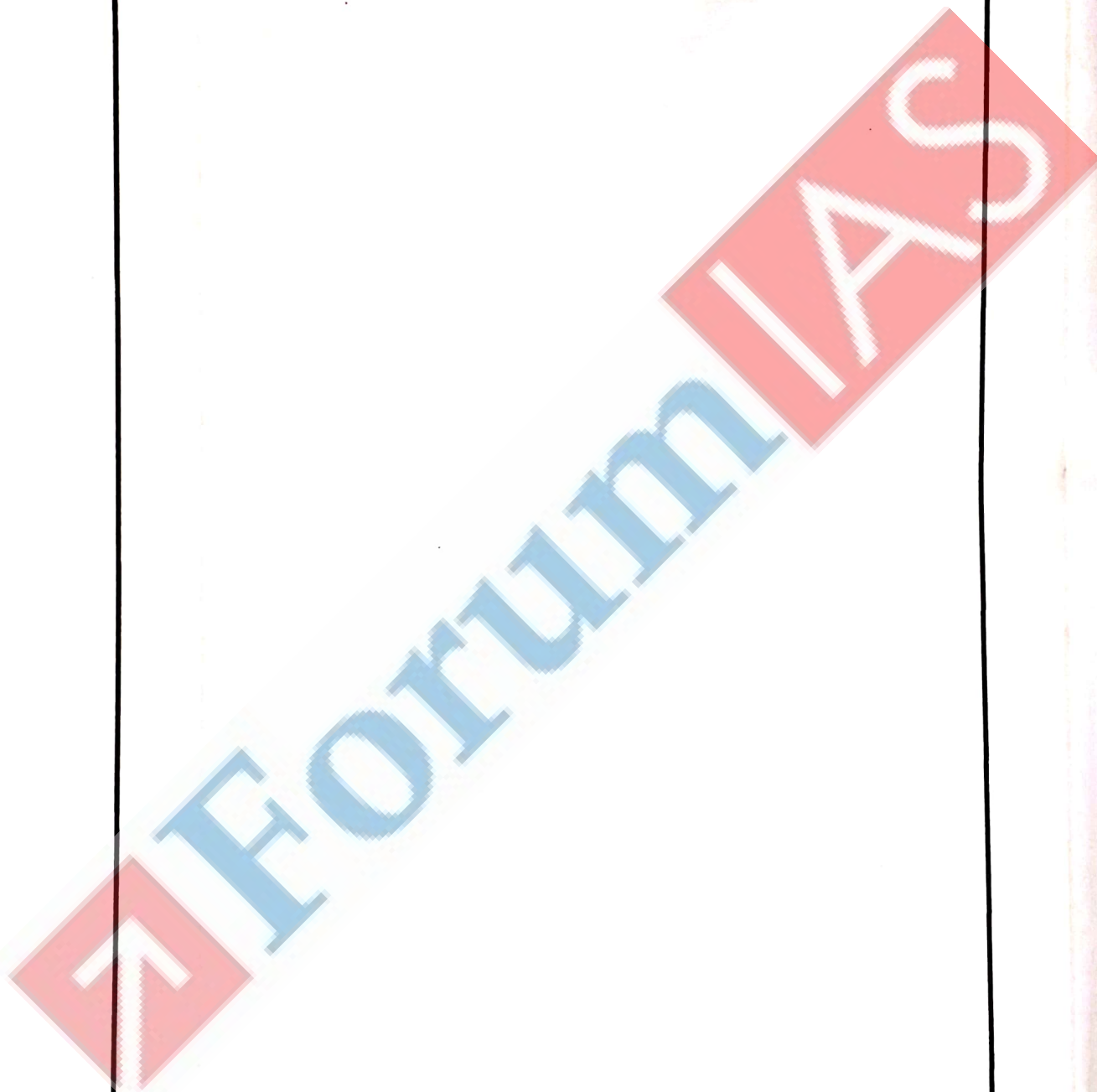
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Q.3) Do you think that the recent amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act proposed by the Government will help in reducing the instances of money laundering in India? Discuss.  
(10 Marks, 150 Words)



Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		<b>Total :</b>	

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Q.4) How far do you think the rise of Bangladesh in the economic hierarchy of South Asia has had an impact on India? Critically examine. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

The rise of Bangladesh in economic hierarchy of South Asia is reflected in many indices like Human Development Index & Global Hunger Index etc... in which it fared better than India.

## Reasons

- ⇒ Bangladesh improved on textile sector specially cotton & silk industries which now out-competed Indian textile industries & captured world markets.
- ⇒ Its trade with china is greatly improved with opening of Sittwe-port for chinese trade.
- ⇒ Granting of aids & trade agreements with china is proving counter-productive for India-bangladesh relations.

## Impacts on India

- ⇒ Textile sector in India is facing sluggish exports as world markets now prefer Bangladesh textiles.

⇒ Bangladesh playing china cards on India's foreign policy. (eg.) in recent NRC incidents.

⇒ With opening of sitwe port for chinese trading, Kaladan-multimodal projects growth is getting sluggish.

### Measures to be taken

⇒ Teesta-River sharing agreement be finalised soon

⇒ Contemporary issues like NRC; Rohingya repatriation etc. must be sorted out through diplomacy.

⇒ Trade must be encouraged & hydropower purchase agreements be renewed.

Bangladesh is a strategic neighbour for India and economic relations must not be let to affect it.

### Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		<b>Total :</b>	

**Q.5) Rising instances of cyber attacks exposes India's vulnerability in terms of its capacity in dealing with cyber security. Examine the statement in the context of recent events.**

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Cybersecurity is the capability to safeguard the internet & other related devices & infrastructure from any attacks like hacking etc...

### Recent events of cyberattacks

- ⇒ Malware attack in Kudankulam nuclear power plant
- ⇒ pegasus virus attack in whatsapp
- ⇒ many local incidents of cyberattacks in banking systems etc...

### Vulnerability in Indian Cybersecurity System

- ⇒ Imported softwares from other countries
- ⇒ lack of central cyber authority like in USA & Singapore. India has around 36 agencies scattered across many departments.
- ⇒ absence of strict data protection laws.
- ⇒ digitally illiterate population in rural areas.
- ⇒ The sole act dealing with cybersecurity is IT Act, 2000 which is outdated.

## Measures to be taken for strengthening cybersecurity

- ⇒ Update the IT Act, 2000 with suitable amendments while balancing data privacy
- ⇒ 10% of budgetary allocation to IT sector must be utilized for cybersecurity as recommended by NASSCOM.
- ⇒ National cybersecurity policy, 2020 must include stricter punishments for violation
- ⇒ Data protection Bill, 2019 must be passed earlier with provisions of data localisation
- ⇒ Central Cyber Agency ⇒ proposed  
Defence Cyber Agency with well-trained & equipped professionals

With around 350 million internet users which is expected to double in 2030, cybersecurity systems must be strengthened to prevent unconventional security attacks.

### Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		<b>Total :</b>	

Q.6) The growing distance in relationship between Nepal and India could prove counterproductive to the interests of both the countries Examine. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

India-Nepal relations have a historic background with the signing of 1950- Friendship treaty.

### India-Nepal Ties

- ⇒ Nepal is a landlocked country. India has opened many ports for its trade
- ⇒ Open-border with Nepal - provides citizens of both countries to travel & settle anywhere in their territories
- ⇒ Nepali citizens can avail government employment in India.
- ⇒ India has trade deficit with Nepal allowing it trade in hydropower etc..

### Growing tensions

⇒ Adaptation of new constitution & Madhesi issue led to roadblocks for Nepalese movement & trade thus starting of dispute.

Many Nepalese resent the "Big Brother" attitude of India & intrusion in their

Sovereignty

⇒ Inclination of Nepal P.M. Oli's attitude on China is causing resentment in India

Instances like accusing India for instigating Madhesis etc.. has led to spreading hatred among Nepalese.

- Recent comments by Nepal's PM that "Indian Virus is dangerous than Chinese" on COVID-19 and the disputed territory of Kalapani in Uttarakhand being included in the new Nepal's map and advocating birth place of Ram is Nepal etc.. causes resentment in people of India on Nepal.

Measures to be taken

⇒ Less intrusion & not showing "Big Brother" attitude towards Nepal by allowing to manage their own internal affairs.

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⇒ The disputed "Kalapani territory" must be sorted out either through diplomacy or by following UN arbitration etc..

⇒ Issues like Lord Ram's birth place must not be treated seriously, as he himself is facing criticisms from opposition for being pro-china.

⇒ Economic ties must not be weakened rather it should be strengthened.

Whether Nepal is inclined towards China or not should it be a concern rather India must focus on strengthening its ties with Nepal.

### Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		<b>Total :</b>	



Q.7) USA has time and again criticised the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for allowing developing countries to engage in unfair trade practices. What is the future of WTO in the present context of growing 'trade disputes' between developed and developing countries?  
(15 Marks, 250 Words)

With the term of two members of Appellate Tribunal of WTO coming to end, the single member body is becoming dysfunctional, thus causing worry.

### Issues in WTO

⇒ There is no definition of countries being developed or developing in WTO. It provides criteria only for Least Developed Countries (LDC's) as per Article IX of WTO.

⇒ ∴ majority of countries have declared themselves to be developing including china & India

⇒ USA accused china<sup>& India</sup> of its developing country status and stopped the General System of Preference (GSP) trade with both countries. This has started struggle between developed & developing countries.



USA announced that there should be criteria's & countries meeting atleast anyone must be announced as developed like membership of G20/OECD; export in world market of 0.5% or above etc...

With these criteria South Korea has declared itself shifting to developed country status thus aggravating the issues.

⇒ USA has blocked the appointment of members for Appellate Tribunal of WTO. thus rendering it dysfunctional.

### Future of WTO

⇒ WTO has still scope for operation as many countries like Canada & EU has proposed alternative dispute resolution mechanisms

⇒ Countries like Malaysia & Vietnam has declared that they will not file any new disputes in Dispute Settlement Body until the appointments are made.

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⇒ Bilateral & regional forums are emerging as alternatives for dispute settlement.

## Measures to be taken

⇒ Countries must push America towards appointment of judges in Appellate Tribunal

⇒ Discrepancies in development & levels of industrialization must be included in deciding the criteria for developing & developed countries.

⇒ Apart from economic criteria, social criteria like poverty rate etc... must also be included.

Multi-lateralism is the need of the hour & protectionist policies must be discontinued. Reforming WTO and its various agreements are needed.

### Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.8) Some of the assumptions which governed India's foreign policy engagements have been fundamentally challenged in recent times. Elucidate with suitable examples how India's foreign policy has evolved in an environment of changing global order.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

India's foreign policy has changes as well as continuation, with the changing needs of time.

Changes in Recent times

⇒ Non-alignment was the foreign policy of India during independence. But with changing times there is inclination towards west particularly after LPG reforms. But currently India is performing the act of Rebalancing

⇒ Instead of single alliance, India is favouring multi-lateralism with multiple alliances. Recent eg. in G20 Summit — India was part of both JAI [Japan; USA; India] & RCI (Russia, China, India)

⇒ At the same time, it is also part of NAM which is still relevant for economic policies of third world countries.

Evolution with changing global order.

NAM [during bipolar world]



Inclination towards USA [during end of cold war]



Rebalancing [after 2008 crisis]

With the emergence of China as alternative power centre, India has favoured multi-lateralism to check interests of China becoming dominant. eg.] SCO; Quad etc...

India's shift from "Look East" policy to "Act East" also shows the changes in foreign policy to prevent a dominant China.

With COVID-19 induced global recession, there is still more scope of multilateralism.

Q.9) While it may be undeniable that the Maoists still have the strength to make their presence felt in certain regions, it would be grossly untenable to say that they continue to pose an existential threat to the Indian state as they did earlier. Examine.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

The unequal development in rural India along with factors like corruption etc. led to the rise of Maoism in 1960s.

### Reasons for Maoism

- The dissatisfaction with the government for lack of fulfilment of promises like land reforms etc..
- Green revolution benefitted only the rich peasants in north western areas
- Corrupt bureaucracy & lack of transparency in PDS systems etc...
- External support from China
- Partial support of local residents.

### strategies

- Maoists rely on violent methods to destroy the infrastructures & bring fall of government. They also form popular fronts for participating in elections
- They run parallel governments & parallel army & undertake extortions & killings

Government Response

- Combined military, political & social response from government led to decline of Maoism whose major aim was to form "Red Corridor" from Uttar Pradesh to Karnataka.

⇒ Focus on developmental activities through models like "Saranda model" which focussed on improving health, education & livelihoods.

⇒ Budgetary allocation → Scheme for Developing Extremists Areas, Aspirational districts programme; Road construction in LWE areas etc...

⇒ Negotiations with leaders of Maoism and "SAMADHAN" doctrines to surrender-cum-rehabilitation policies

⇒ Military operations with the help of BSF & CRPF- CoBRA battalions like Operation Steeplecase & joint operation with Myanmar & Bangladesh governments like Operation Butterfly & Operation All-out etc..

- Many maoists leaders were either killed or arrested and also many surrendered.
- Lost people's support as violence as their method couldn't get people's support.
- Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967 has banned many maoist organisations.

Thus the very idea of establishment of Red Corridor was shattered. Remote instances though prevalent is also being encountered & negotiations like "Bastar Dialogue" are still happening to prevent any security threat.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.10) Use of social media for carrying out mass demonstrations, propaganda and rumor mongering is a major security concern. Suggest effective measures to curb the above threat.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

As the frontiers of digital world widens, so is the unconventional security threats emanating from use of social media.

social media & security concern — Reasons

⇒ India has around 350 million internet users many of whom are digitally illiterate

⇒ Lack of data security laws make virtual world more prone for security threats.

⇒ Lack of unified central authority as in case of USA & Singapore. India has around 36 cyber agencies scattered.

⇒ Lack of effective software as most of it are imported from other countries.

use of social media — for mass demonstration

The anonymous & fake accounts have the potential to instigate & mobilise people for any social or political causes.

(eg.) Jallikattu protests used social media for mass demonstrations.



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spreading false propoganda & creating enmity among different groups of people may also lead to communalism

eg.) Recent incidents of 'superspreaders theory against Tablig-i-jamad members'

Rumours → as many people in rural India are still illiterate spreading of rumours causes panic & societal stress.

(eg.) recent rumour on COVID-19 cure by consuming methanol caused many death in Iran; similar incidents also happened in India.

Measures to control social media security threats :-

⇒ promoting awareness among users to verify the authenticity of such information by using apps like Logical Indian & WhatsApp checkline etc..

⇒ origin tracing & punishment for rumour mongers to prevent further damages.

⇒ 10% of IT budget be allotted to cybersecurity as recommended by NASSCOM.

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⇒ Many provisions provide punishments for spreading false informations like Sec. 505(i) of IPC, 1970; Sec. 66 (D) of IT Act, 2000 & Sec 24 of Disaster Management Act etc... such provisions must be strictly followed

⇒ The social media service providers like WhatsApp, Facebook etc.. are tasked to de-encrypt data in case of security threats.

⇒ Cyber Defence Agency as proposed must be given more powers like punishments, fines for ensuring cyber security.

As India is moving towards the goal of achieving 5 trillion economy with a target of 1 trillion from digital world, it is high time that cyber security is strengthened.

## Feedback ( For OFFICE use only )

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	