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INTRODUCTION TO SOUTH ASIA

B.P.S.E.-144

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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2024

(Solved)

INTRODUCTION TO SOUTH ASIA

B.P.S.E.-144

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks : 100

Note : This question paper has **two** sections. Answer any **five** questions, selecting at least **two** questions from each section.

SECTION – I

Q. 1. Explain the role of SAARC in South Asia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 127, 'Introduction' and Page No. 130, 'Relevance' and Q. No. 1.

Q. 2. Examine different dimensions of security in South Asia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 138, 'Security Dynamics of South Asia'.

Q. 3. Critically examine various aspects of Human Development and Regional Imbalances in South Asia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 63, 'Dimensions of Human Development' and Page No. 65, 'Regional Imbalance in South Asia'.

Q. 4. Write short notes on the following:

(a) 'Graveyard of Empires'.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 95, Q. No. 12 and Page No. 91 and 'Armed Conflicts in Afghanistan'.

(b) Global waterscape.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 110, Q. No. 2.

SECTION – II

Q. 5. Explain measures and policy reforms for promotion of sustainable Development in South Asia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 80, 'Sustainable Development and Policy Reforms' and Page No. 83, Q. No. 4.

Q. 6. Write a note on political structures and processes in Nepal and Bhutan.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 56, Q. No. 3, Q. No. 5.

Q. 7. Discuss genesis of ethnic conflicts in Sri Lanka.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 44, 'Political Processes in Sri Lanka'.

Q. 8. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Territorial conflicts between India and Pakistan.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 99, 'Territorial Disputes between India and Pakistan'.

(b) Hydro politics in South Asia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 107, 'Water and Security or Hydropolitics'.



QUESTION PAPER

December – 2023

(Solved)

INTRODUCTION TO SOUTH ASIA

B.P.S.E.-144

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks : 100

Note : This question paper has **two** sections. Answer any **five** questions, selecting at least **two** questions from each section.

SECTION – I

Q. 1. Explain the geo-strategic importance of South Asia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 2, 'South Asia in Global Geo-Politics' and Page No. 4, Q. No. 4.

Q. 2. Write a note on Security Dynamics of South Asia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 138, 'Security Dynamics of South Asia'.

Q. 3. Define Human Development and discuss the challenges to it.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 62, 'Defining Human Development' and Page No. 67, Q. No. 3.

Q. 4. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Transnational Organized Crimes.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 139, 'Transnational Organised Crimes' and Page No. 141, 'Transnational Organised Crimes'.

(b) Globalization.

Ans. Globalization is the process of increasing interconnectedness and interdependence among countries through the exchange of goods, services, information, and cultural practices. It involves the integration of economies, societies, and cultures on a global scale, driven by advances in technology, transportation, and communication.

Also Add: Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 118, 'Globalisation and Civil Society'.

SECTION – II

Q. 5. Explain changing trends of development and their impact on environment in South Asia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 80, 'Changing Trends of Development and their Impact on Environment in South Asia' and Page No. 82, Q. No. 2.

Q. 6. Write a note on political structures and processes in Sri Lanka.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 43, 'Political Structures in Sri Lanka' and Page No. 44, 'Political Processes in Sri Lanka'.

Q. 7. Explain changing nature and characteristics of armed conflicts in South Asia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 88, 'Changing Nature and Characteristics of Armed Conflicts in The Region' and 'Contemporary Armed Conflicts in South Asia'.

Q. 8. Write short notes on the following:

(a) The 'Global War on Terror'.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 55, Q. No. 2.

(b) 'Sir Creek Line' Dispute.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 99, 'Sir Creek'.
Also Add: The Sir Creek dispute is a longstanding territorial disagreement between India and Pakistan over a 96-kilometer strip of water and marshland located in the Rann of Kutch region, between the Indian state of Gujarat and the Pakistani province of Sindh. The dispute centers on the interpretation of a 1914 agreement between the Sindh government, then under British rule, and the princely state of Kutch. India claims that the boundary lies along the eastern bank of the creek, following the low-water mark, while Pakistan insists it runs along the mid-channel. The area, though seemingly insignificant, is strategically important due to its proximity to potential oil and gas reserves. Additionally, the demarcation affects the maritime boundary between the two countries, impacting their respective exclusive economic zones. Despite multiple rounds of negotiations, the dispute remains unresolved, contributing to the broader tensions between India and Pakistan.



Sample Preview of The Chapter

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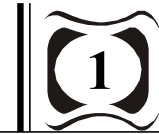


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INTRODUCTION TO SOUTH ASIA

BLOCK-1 : SOUTH ASIA : AN INTRODUCTION



South Asia as a Region

INTRODUCTION

The South Asia region made by forming several nation-states that are bound together by a common geography, or, are linked with historical events and civilisations having multi-lingual and cultural identity and institutionalised form of a regional cooperation mechanism. The countries or nation-states that constitute 'South Asia Region' are: India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Afghanistan.

Earlier, the region of South Asia was famous by the name of 'Indian Subcontinent' or 'Southern Asia' which simply signifies that region is located to the south of Asia.

Hence, today, the term region of South Asia is used as a sub-regional entity by many multilateral institutions like – United Nations, WTO, IMF, World Bank, etc., and got its sanction by creating SAARC (South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation).

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

GEOGRAPHY OF SOUTH ASIA

The Himalayan belt in the northern hemisphere of the South Asia separates it from East Asia, while the southern peninsular plateau characterised by the Deccan Plateau and the Indo-Gangetic plain and desert were intermingled in between them. Therefore, the island states, Sri Lanka and Maldives, and landlocked state, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan have their own exceptional features in geographical aspects. Despite having unique characteristics, countries, time and again, facing disagreements, conflicts with regard to river water sharing and common open borders that may take illegal course of action. India is the largest country among the South Asian countries that occupies nearly three-fourth of the landmass.

HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIA

There were vivid range of series occurred in different periods starting from Indus valley civilisation which considered as one of the oldest civilisations, to the Vedic period which later known as Bronze Age, which led to emergence of Buddhism and Jainism (the non-Vedic movements), which further lead to arrivals of Islam in the sub-continent which means invading of Arabs, Turks and mongols, and then lastly, welcoming the colonial British rule that lasted for two hundred years. They all jointly or severally aid the South Asian countries to form their present-day political and administrative structure. These ancient and medieval influencers have left their footprints on the South Asian region and hence helped the countries to shape their political scenario.

Addition to these, the post-colonial period has their role to play in shaping the nations in South Asia. India-Pakistan conflicts, Bangladesh independence, Sinhala-Tamil wars in Sri Lanka, insurgencies in North-east, have some how lead to formation of present-day scenario of South Asian countries. These multitudes of events that occurred in history has given a stringent example to the outer world about the workings and dealings of South Asian nations. These events, time and again, pull down the growth of these nations, hence in absence of these hurdles, South Asia would have been a developed region till date, but it is currently considered as a developing one in its wisest form.

POLITICS OF SOUTH ASIA

The South Asian countries, during the post-colonial period, has articulated their freedom by determining to select for any form of government that suits best to their then current situation as there is diversity in religion, caste, creed, language, occupation cultures, etc., all over the South Asia. This vividness led the

countries to decide different types of forms of government that they believe can maintain proper law and order in the country.

Form of Government

After the end of colonial rule or end of any colonised period in South Asian region, the countries started structuring their government based on their socio-political scenario. There are many different forms of government present in South Asian region, such as parliamentary form, presidential form, semi-presidential form and monarchy form of government:

- The countries that following parliamentary form of government are – India, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Among them, three countries have federal republics, they are – India, Pakistan and Nepal.
- Bangladesh has unitary republic and Bhutan is having a constitutional monarchy.
- Sri Lanka has semi-executive presidency.
- Maldives has presidential form of government.

Political Parties

The political parties such as Indian national congress in India, Awami League in Bangladesh, United National Party in Sri Lanka, Pakistan's People Party, Nepali Congress, etc., had played an active role in decolonising the south Asian countries in their freedom struggles and bringing the social change while hugging the democracy with new developments and social justice in the parts of South Asia. This pushes the nation on the progressive road. Addition to this there are several political parties having ideologies based on regional or sub-regional aspirations across the nation making it a multi-party system.

Political Processes

The political process in the South Asian countries has been a difficult task to work upon as the countries post-colonial period have develop some strange issues like religious minorities, communal riots, politics of regionalism, area/boundary issues have always been evident. These issues make the process even stiffer. Also, the political parties had the dynastic consideration of which some examples are – Nehru-Gandhi family in India, Bhutto-Sharif family in Pakistan, Koirala family in Nepal, etc.

Intra-regional Politics

During the colonisation, the seed of differentiation has been bowed on the ground of language, economic status, religion, ethnicity, due to which if a country had

an identity conflict within, it has potential to roll over to the neighbouring countries. It is evident that, India is always a denominator in such conflicts due to acquiring of its most area and resources. For e.g., India's role in Bangladesh liberation, India's unsuccessful mediation role in Sinhalese-Tamil role in Sri Lanka. The regional ramification of domestic politics is seen when Nepali's political turmoil during struggle against monarchy and questioning of Indian origin *Madeshis*.

SOUTH ASIA IN GLOBAL GEO-POLITICS

South Asia has always been at beneficial position due to its geographical features. Also, due to geo-political landscape, they retain the advantage to achieve its unique position at global geo-politics.

South Asia During the Cold War Years

During the cold war period, South Asian countries themselves faced grudges against each other while supporting their super powers i.e., US and Soviet Union at the international level. India adopted the policy of Non-Alignment showed its ideology of Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Security, while Pakistan signed south East Asian Treaty Organisation (SEATO) and Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO) making its intentions crystal, and later become a proxy for US to support Afghan Mujahidin against USSR. Later, both India and Pakistan become the member of Non-Alignment Movement (NAM).

South Asia and the Global War on Terror

The conflicts between India and Pakistan have become a global flashpoint after the two nations conducted nuclear tests at Pokhran and Chagai respectively. Pakistan is considered as a key ally of United States when 9/11 attacks held in 2001 in US, that makes Pakistan a frontline state in picture of terror on global war. One of the major issues that India and Pakistan cannot come on same footings on the issues of Kashmir that is the main bone of contention (up till 2019).

South Asia and China

China has great influence on conflict dynamics among or with the South Asian countries. China's geographical presence on the global front cannot be ignored and has strategic vision to global connectivity of roads that lead to Beijing through Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI). China has been a silent global power nation that tremendously working on its trade, infrastructure and networking. While maintaining cordial relations, he is channelising multiple infrastructure projects with neighbouring countries.

SOUTH ASIA AS A REGION / 3

Whereas, India has its limited engagement with China, on the other hand, China has friendly relations with Pakistan.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION IN SOUTH ASIA

Post-colonial period, countries took some time to understand their social and economic needs and gradually started working towards it. The foremost challenge was the 'Human Development' that reflects multiple issues such as poverty, health, education, status of females, occupations and the quality-of-life people are living. Human development is a traditional concept which means development and growth of economy which measured on the basis of aggregated income of the society or per capita income.

Human Development in South Asia

The human development approach gained recognition when United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) presented its first report in 1990. UNDP explained that Human Development Index (HDI) is cumulative measurement of three essentials of human choices require at all level for human development, i.e., longevity, knowledge and decent standard of living. South Asia constitutes nearly one-fourth of the world's population which ultimately makes it challenging to curb the issues of multi-dimensional poverty and require some policy intervention. As per UNDP ranking of 190 countries, South Asian countries comes at lower quarter giving Pakistan – 154 ranks, Nepal – 142, Bangladesh – 133, India – 131 and Bhutan 129, while exempting Sri Lanka at 72.

Economic Growth in South Asia

The geographical location and size of the population of the countries of South Asia have a direct bearing on their economies. Within South Asia, India is largest in population and in area. A large part of population is living in the rural areas. Since 1990s, South Asian countries have speed up in opening their economic reform initiatives. The growth rate was 5% when they initiated and reached to 7.1% in 2021-22 as projected by World Bank. From 2000 onwards, countries had structural changes and productive or qualitative workforce that create growth opportunities for the people until 2008 when financial crisis strikes. Concepts like privatisation, globalisation and digitalisation have come up that connect countries in more than one way and grow in their respective arenas.

Regional Cooperation

Regional cooperation plays a crucial role in developing of South Asia as a region especially when

the countries acting as a nuclear power, global terror to the world. SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) was one such positive product of South Asian countries that came into being in 1985. SAARC countries attempted to form cooperation in resolving the issues like – poverty, trade liberalisation, agriculture and textile, etc., while maintaining their own individuality at global scenario. These SAARC countries time and again made some bilateral agreements also among them for any trade and commerce, action and peace, promotional and uplifting in different mode. Clashes of India and Pakistan, breakdown of complete communication had time and again questioned the viability SAARC process.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q. 1. Which are the different forms of government practiced in the South Asian region?

Ans. South Asian region does not have uniform political system to follow. Each country has their own system to abide and able to rule in an appropriate way for their citizens. They all have different history, vivid population with their own ideologies to be followed in their respective countries as per the majority. Therefore, the politics of identity was swapped by politics of ideas. South Asia has experimented with various forms of the government as follows:

- **In Parliamentary form of government**, there is cordial relations between legislature and executive. In this form of government, head of state is different from head of government. This form of government is followed by India, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan. And out of these, three has federal republic, wherein countries government by elected representatives and elected leader by not king or queen, they are Nepal, India, Pakistan, while Bangladesh has unitary republic where central government is the supreme authority. Lastly, Bhutan has a constitutional monarchy.
- **Presidential form of government** followed by the Maldives. In this, the president enjoys all the real power of the nation. In Maldives, the People' *Majlis* is a unicameral legislative body where *Majlis* can enact, amend laws but not the Constitution of Maldives.
- **Quasi presidential form of government** is followed by Sri Lanka, where people elect the president and he is the head of state, government

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and army battalion, and hence can be removed by votes of parliament members. Semi-presidential form means mix of both the parliamentary and presidential form of government. The constitution can be amended by the two-third majority in parliament.

- **Monarchy, or Constitutional Monarchy** form of government followed by Bhutan. In this, all the political power and authority is in the hands of supreme ruler. The monarch exercises its authority as per the constitution only and not arbitrary manner.

Therefore, each country has been modified to the political circumstances that have existed at that time. For e.g., India has a bicameral parliamentary system based on federal principle and Sri Lanka has presidential system with more unitary features.

Q. 2. Explain some of the major features of the political parties in South Asia.

Ans. Political parties in South Asia have had some distinguishing features as follows:

- Presence of proto-nationalism, that includes the actions of the administration of colonials. Such as Indian National Congress working for Indian consist of British administrators as well as elite class Indians. Also, some basic features of the constitution were taken from different nations or colonial countries.
- Rely upon importance of sovereign politics, i.e., ruling through hierarchy was present and no professional qualification was required. For examples, Nehru-Gandhi family in India, Bhutto-Sharif family in Pakistan, Koirala family in Nepal, etc.
- There was multi-party system followed which based upon ideological diversity present in South Asian countries. There is no single party that get chance to gain power alone, rather all parties work with one another to form a coalition government.
- Empowering the political mobilisation based on ethnic, religious and cultural differentiation which constantly creates global peace. Some nations have ideologies based on language, religion, culture and they form political party in their country accordingly.

The outcome of these political contestation has been revealed not only within the countries, but at the

global level as well. India has often been a common factor in such inter-state political conflicts, as it is the largest country in South Asia in terms of population, and area and constitute 70% of South Asia.

Q. 3. Examine how South Asia was impacted during cold war years.

Ans. When the US-USSR cold war rivalry came to an end, it left some imprints on the South Asian countries. America emerged as a super power and its involvement has rapidly increased in south Asia. It had good relations with both India and Pakistan and worked as a moderator in their conflicts.

- India started its peaceful independence movement against the colonial rule.
- Demand of freedom from colonial rule has emerged tremendously.
- Pakistan joined the alliance of US and others on 1954, while in 1955, India encouraged the new nations to avoid taking either side of US and USSR, and follow the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM).
- Cold war heated up with Indo-Pak conflicts over Kashmir in 1965.
- Civil war emergence in 1970 between east and west Pakistan, wherein East Pakistan gains independence and become a state called 'Bangladesh' in 1971.
- The conflict between India and Pakistan was also on strategic issues like take-over of Siachen glacier and acquisition of arms.

Therefore, India and Pakistan twinned replicated the tensions between the Soviet Union and United States, respectively, paving the way for cold war competition. The development of the cold war in Asia converged and combined with anti-colonial struggles and the formation of states and political regimes in the newly independent but still poor countries. In most of these new states, agriculture remained the major economic activity.

Hence, apart from military issues, water sharing and ethnic strife, South Asian region also realised that if the countries could cooperate with each other, they can develop and prosper.

Q. 4. Explain the present position of South Asia with reference to regional and global geopolitics.

Ans. The scenario of South Asia in the present day is way a more different, developed and had an impressive growth at the global level. Following are the points showing the growth of the countries of South Asia in different sectors: