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Current Affairs
(CSS-2024)

14-08-2024

(10 Marks.)

Q: Write down short notes on the following:

Perspects of Regional Integration
in South Asia :

Regional integration in South Asia offers great potential for economic growth, political stability and cultural exchange. By boosting trade and investment through agreements like South Asian Free Trade (SAFTA),

countries can benefit from their combined market. However, there are challenges such as political conflicts, economic differences and security issues.

Despite these hurdles, working together regionally is a key to achieving greater prosperity and stability. Strengthening institutions are tackling these challenges are crucial for making integration successful.

(2)

Key Aspects of Prospects of Regional Integration in South Asia:

1. Economic Growth:

Regional integration in South Asia could stimulate economic growth by promoting trade and investment among member countries, leveraging the region's collective market size.

"Growth is never by mere chance, it is the result of forces working together" (James Cash Penney)

2. Trade Agreements:

Trade Agreements Initiatives like the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) aim to reduce trade barriers, enhancing intra-regional trade and economic collaboration.

3. Infrastructure Development:

Integrated infrastructure projects, such as the development of transport and energy networks can facilitate regional connectivity and economic integration.

4. Political Stability :

Political stability is greater regional integration may lead to enhance political stability by fostering cooperation and reducing conflicts among South Asian countries.

"According to the World Happiness Report, there is a strong correlation between political stability and national happiness. Countries with stable governments generally score higher on happiness indexes."

5. Cultural Exchange :

It increased regional integration can promote cultural exchange and mutual understanding, strengthening social ties among diverse communities.

6. Challenges of Conflicts :

Long-standing political conflicts and territorial disputes such as those between India and Pakistan pose significant challenges to regional integration efforts.

7. Economic Disparities:

The differences in economic development levels among South Asian countries can hinder integration efforts, as more developed nations may be hesitant to share resources.

"Economic disparity is not just a problem of wealth but a moral crisis of opportunity and justice"

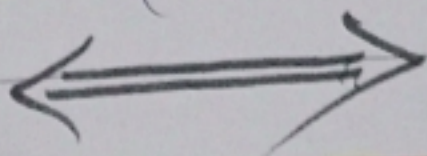
(David K. Shipler)

8. Institutional Frameworks:

The effectiveness of regional integration depends on the establishment and functioning of robust institutional frameworks that manage regional cooperation.

9. Globalization Impact:

The global trend towards regionalism and economic blocs provides both opportunities and pressures for South Asia to enhance its regional integration to remain competitive.



(5)

Q: Write down short note on the following:

(b) The UN Efforts for Nuclear Non-Proliferation:

The United Nations is central to global nuclear non-proliferation efforts, primarily through the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which has been signed by 191 countries since 1970. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) aims to ban all nuclear explosions and has 185 signatories. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) monitors compliance with these treaties, overseeing 190 member states. Despite these efforts, challenges persist, including the fact that 9 countries still possess nuclear weapons, explaining the ongoing need for effective non-proliferation measures.

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Salient Features of the UN Efforts for Nuclear Non-Proliferation:

1. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty: (NPT)

The cornerstone of global nuclear non-proliferation efforts, the NPT aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament -

"The NPT was opened for signature on 1st July 1968, and entered into force on 5 March, 1970"

2. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The IAEA monitors compliance with non-proliferation agreements, provides technical support and promotes peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

"The IAEA's mission is not only to safeguard nuclear materials but also to foster international cooperation in the field of nuclear energy"

(Yukiya Amano)
Former IAEA Director General.

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3. Nuclear Test Ban Treaty: (CTBT)

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty aims to ban all nuclear explosions for both civilians and military purpose, contributing to non-proliferation efforts.

The CTBT has been signed by 185 countries in 2024.

4. Disarmament Initiatives:

The UN advocates for nuclear disarmament through various resolutions and conference, emphasizing the need for complete disarmament of nuclear arsenals.

5. Security Council Resolutions:

The UN Security Council has adopted resolutions to address nuclear proliferation concerns, including sanctions and diplomatic measures against proliferation states.

Peace is not merely the absence of war but the presence of justice" (Proverb)

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6. Counter-Proliferation Measures :

The UN works to strengthen international cooperation on counter-proliferation through various initiatives like the Proliferation Security Initiatives (PSI).

Counter-proliferation efforts must be as dynamic and adaptable as the threats they seek to counter."

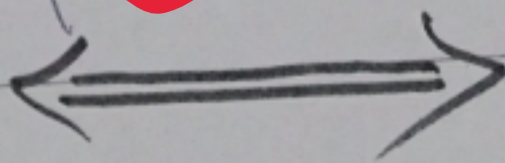
William Perry

7. Verification and Compliance :

The UN promotes rigorous verification and compliance mechanisms to ensure that states adhere to their non-proliferation commitments.

8. Disarmament Education :

The UN engages in educational efforts to raise awareness about the dangers of nuclear weapons and the importance of non-proliferation.



THE END

Good attempt