

Q3- CA-2022

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Write short on the following

(a) Poverty and Trade in South Asia and the role of SAARC

(b) A comparison of leadership qualities between Xi Jinping of China and Joe Biden of the US

(c) 2022 FIFA World Cup and politics of the Arab world.

(a)

## Poverty in South Asia

The South Asian region comprising of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and others is considered one of the poorest and most unequal regions in the world. The population of the region comprises of  $\frac{1}{4}$ th the world's population. Out of these numbers, it hosts close to 34% of the world's poorest.

Country	Population of Poor (Extreme)
(a) India →	175.7 M
(b) Bangladesh →	24.4 M
(c) Pakistan →	9.9 M
(d) Nepal →	25% of population
(e) Other →	Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives extreme poverty non-existent (ADB)

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Keeping this data in mind, one can easily estimate that these economies have massive inequality.

There was more income equality during the British Raj than in modern India. Times magazine has dubbed this new phenomenon as India's 'Billionaire Raj'.

Eliminating poverty requires concerted efforts from all stakeholders in alleviating the menace of poverty.

## Trade in South Asia

South Asia is <sup>at the</sup> centre of what is called the 'Rise of Asia' and 'Asian century'. Its access to all year round warm water ports provide a substantial edge in comparison with Arctic ports. However, the trade volume within the trading partners in South Asia is dismal. Due to geopolitical stripes and regional enmity, this region is losing out on the potential of trade.

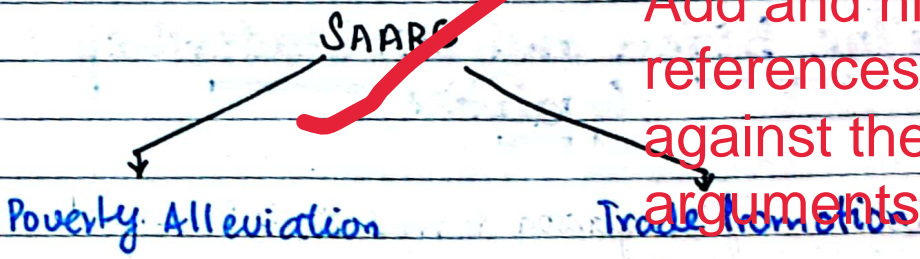
\* Currently South Asian countries total trade amount to only USD 23 Billion, far below the estimated

potential of USD '67 Billion'

(World Bank)

## Role of SAARC in Poverty Alleviation and Trade Promotion

SAARC is a powerful body, provided it doesn't remain hostage to regional disputes between India and Pakistan. It has various mechanisms to reduce poverty and promote trade.



Add and highlight references/examples against these arguments

→ Reactivation of SAARC Plan of Action on Poverty Alleviation

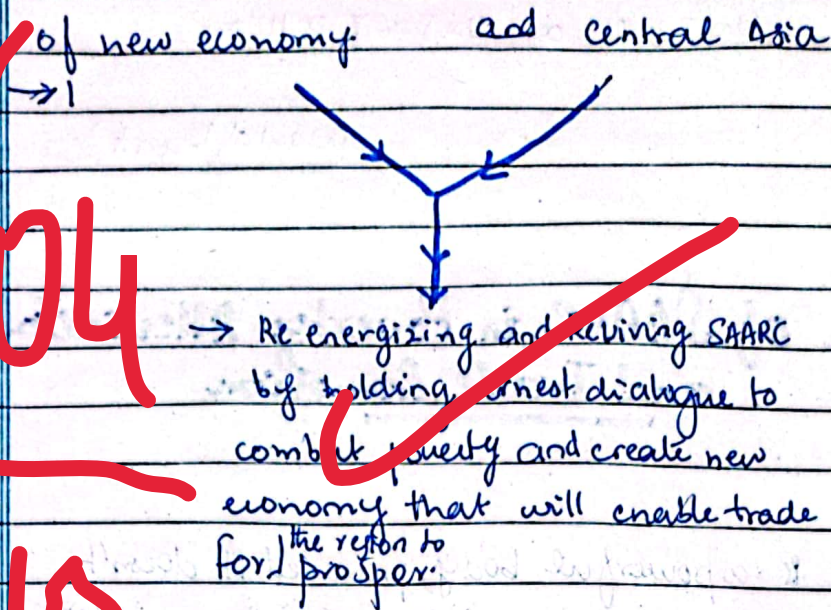
→ Reactivating SAFTA (South Asian Free Trade Agreement)

→ Reorganizing SAARC Bodies to combat new poverty and implementing long lasting proposals that will result in poverty alleviation and creation

→ Removing barriers to trade under the ambit of SAARC dialogue  
→ Using transit trade under SAARC to bridge the gap between South Asia

Discuss this part in detail by giving multiple subheadings

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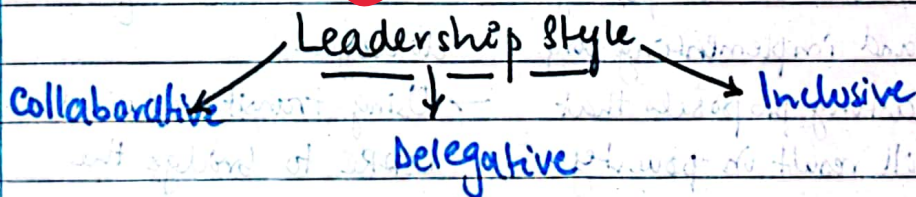
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(b)

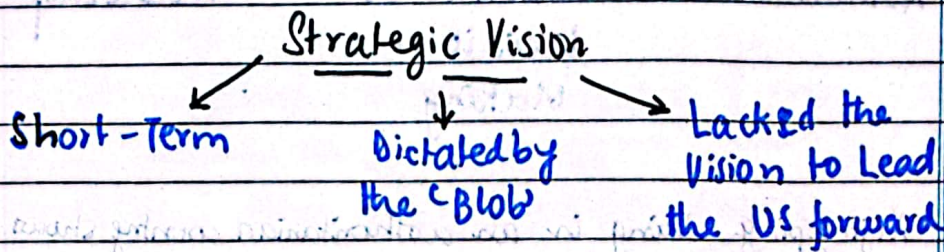
## Joe Biden and His Leadership Qualities

Before any comparison is made, there is a need to understand the form of government of the two leader's countries. Biden enjoyed support in a democratic setup. His style would be more suited to the values and norms that he would be expected to uphold.



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The American Leadership is a series of delegative collaborative and above inclusive mesh of frameworks. The essence of democracy is best shown in the US, as the people elect and President delegates his powers to various office holders.



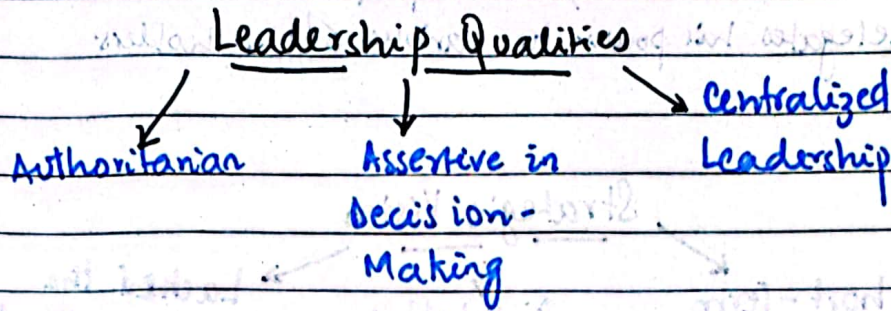
Professor John Mearsheimer, in his talks and books, constantly tells us that Joe Biden is a product of the 'blob' or security establishment. His foreign policy approach shall be to continue what the deep-state requires. In many ways, Joe Biden has been called as a Lame-Duck President. His dismal performance in Afghanistan and in Israel-Gaza conflict has revealed how capable of a leader he is.

## Xi Jing Ping and His Leadership Qualities

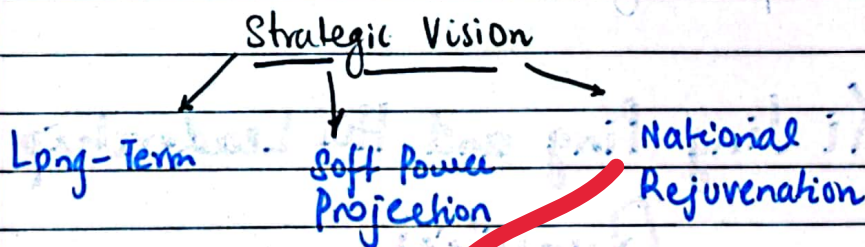
Xi Jinping, the President of China, governs in a one-party system. His leadership style is suited

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to the mantra of 'Party Leads all'. The qualities are therefore somewhat authoritarian in nature.



Xijiangping being in an authoritarian country shows the same tendencies what people expect of him. He has been accused of consolidating power far beyond his reach. Moreover, he has been linked to Mao's regime and his attempt of power consolidation. He has been seen as quite assertive in decision making and has removed several key figures of the Party for dissenting opinions.



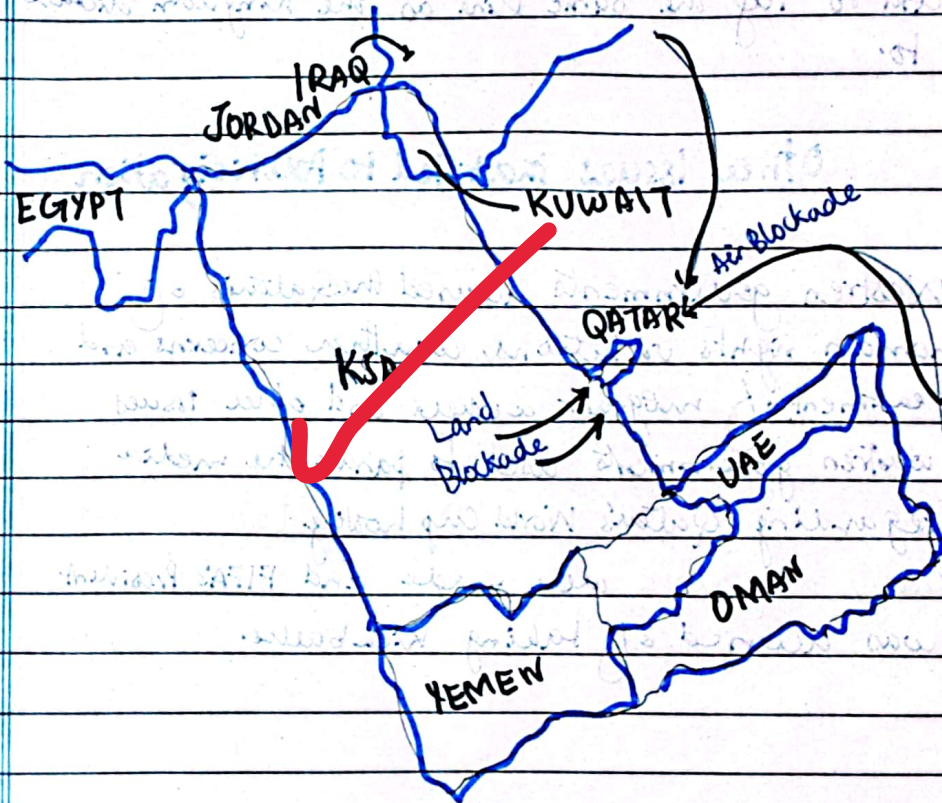
Unlike the US, the Chinese plan for the long-term. They are not bound by any term limits and can effectively plan for the next 20-30 years. Xi Jingsping's

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strategic vision stretches out <sup>up to</sup> 30 years. He  
articulate them in his book 'Governance of  
China' - a 4 part volume that <sup>contains</sup> his writings and  
speeches. He has emphasized <sup>and argued</sup> on building China's self  
reliance and capability through soft power diplomacy.

(c)

## 2022 FIFA WORLD CUP AND THE POLITICS OF ARAB WORLD



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## Politics of the Arab World Before the World Cup

Before the World Cup, Qatar was diplomatically isolated in the Arab world. From 2017 to 2021, Qatar was diplomatically and physically isolated by the Saudis, Emiratis and their partners. The World Cup provided the Qataris much of the soft power that <sup>then</sup> earned global recognition. The isolation was a result of Qatar's alleged support to Iran and Al-Qaeda's reporting of the Arab world. But, in other words, it was to remind Qatar not stray far from the Saudi's influence and circle and to tug the same line as the Kingdom dictate to.

## Other Issues that led to Politicization

Western governments accused the Qataris of human rights violations, weather concerns and treatment of migrant workers and these issues western governments used to fund the media regarding Qatar's World Cup hosting. Corruption and Bribery allegations were made and FIFA's President was accused of taking kickbacks.



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## Results of the Blockade and Politicization of the World Cup

The blockade that lasted 4 years, blew up in the face of the Saudis and its partners. It did not prevent Qatar's decision making and further reinforced its relations with Turkey and Iran.

Moreover, the Qataris finally became more independent in their decisions and went out of the Saudi's orbit.

while the rest of the concerns died down when the world cup began, although western governments during the tournament kept on virtue signalling. It was of no use as the Qataris scored an incredible diplomatic victory.

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