

लोक सेवा आयोग

नेपाल परराष्ट्र सेवा, राजपत्राङ्कित प्रथम श्रेणी,
सहसचिव वा सो सरह (अप्राविधिक) पदको आन्तरिक प्रतियोगितात्मक लिखित परीक्षा
मिति: २०८१/९/२

समय: ३ घण्टा

पूर्णाङ्क: १००

पत्र: तृतीय

बिषय: Nepal's Foreign Policy and Contemporary International Affairs

तलका प्रश्नहरूको उत्तर बेग्लाबेग्लै उत्तरपुस्तिकामा लेख्नुपर्नेछ ।

The Language of the examination shall be English.

1. Nepal treasures huge potentials in hydropower development. Despite a huge potential, Nepal has suffered prolonged power cuts and load-shedding in the past. Since August 2021, Nepal became an energy surplus country in the wet season. Now, Nepal aims to become a net exporter of power by 2026.

Due to geographical proximity, India is the next-door market for Nepal followed by Bangladesh. Both countries have a huge energy demand. India has set a target to derive 50 percent electric power by 2030. This shows its growing need for renewable energy, which was reflected in the Seventh Joint Commission held in Kathmandu this year. The two Foreign Ministers signed a power purchase agreement in January 2024 for 10000 MW in 10 years period.

With a rising energy demand in the region, Nepal can become a hub for hydropower and a strong building block between governments, business, and peoples. The Government aims to produce over 28,000 MW of electricity by 2035 and is exploring bilateral, trilateral and multilateral energy partnerships. Recently held trilateral power trade agreement of 40 MW involving Nepal, India, and Bangladesh speak volumes on it. Nepal and India have also agreed to cooperate in the power sector at sub-regional level through BBIN initiative. However, Nepal needs huge investment to realize these goals and targets.

Against this background, evaluate the potentialities of producing 28000 MW power by 2035 and suggest concrete measures to achieve this target. Can the trilateral agreement become a viable avenue for opening up new markets for power trade in the region or not? Justify your opinion. 8+7+10=25

2. Climate justice has been the key demand of countries like Nepal given their negligible share in carbon emission. However, they bear the worst brunt of climate change. Developed countries are far from meeting their obligations in climate action. Their inaction or little action has created a situation of climate crisis. It is unlikely that all countries, mostly developed ones, would agree on containing the temperature rise, reducing the carbon footprints in near future and realize the target of net zero emission. Nepal is currently the chair of the LDCs and stands a better chance to articulate views on climate change for the LDCs and for itself.

Negotiations on climate change are one of the most difficult and complex processes involving political, economic and technical dimensions. There is a huge gap between commitment made and actual implementation. Access to climate finance and technology transfer has become a very cumbersome process for developing countries. The developing countries also had to fight hard to introduce the Loss and Damage as agenda item for discussions.

Against this backdrop,

7+6+6+6=25

- Critically examine whether Nepal is in a position to take leadership role in the ongoing climate negotiations.
- What have been our strengths and shortcomings in climate negotiation? Analyse.
- What are our key priorities and what should be our strategy to drive the collective efforts of LDCs and climate vulnerable countries? Discuss.
- What value would Nepal add to the multilateral negotiating process? Present your view logically.

3. On October 24, 2024 Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India and President Xi Jinping of China agreed on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Russia to reduce their differences and jointly work out a plan for patrolling the border that had been a matter of nagging tension since their border war of 1962 and the skirmish in Galwan in 2020. Now the new agreement is expected to result in closer political and economic ties. India and China share certain common interests as the two largest developing nations. China was India's biggest trade partner in the year 2023 with their bilateral trade running up to \$118 billion.

Analyze the implications of this new development in the neighborhood for Nepal. How can we navigate our diplomacy with our neighbors? How Sino-Indian relations will impact regional peace and security? Discuss.

7+8+10=25

4. a) Nepal has a strong association with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Nepal ratified CEDAW in 1991, committing to eliminate discrimination against women and promote gender equality. In 2007, Nepal also acceded to the CEDAW Optional Protocol, which allows individuals or groups to file complaints directly with the CEDAW Committee if they believe their rights under the Convention have been violated.

The CEDAW Committee, consisting of 23 independent experts elected from among the Member States's nominees, also reviews periodic reports submitted by States Parties on their efforts to implement the Convention.

Nepal's commitment to CEDAW is demonstrated in the country's constitutional provisions and efforts to implement them, in meeting its reporting obligations, in active representation by its diplomats, and in the contribution made by its national as a CEDAW Committee Member since 2017. Nepal has again presented its candidature to the Committee for the third term, 2025-2028.

In the above background, draft a third person Diplomatic Notes requesting all States Party to CEDAW for their support to Nepal's candidature.

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- b) Prepare a set of Suggested Talking Points for the Prime Minister of Nepal for his meeting with the Chairman of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Cooperation (BIMSTEC) to be held on the sidelines of the summit of the Heads of State or Government of BIMSTEC Member States.

Include pertinent points to emphasize the importance of more active regional cooperation in all agreed sectors of BIMSTEC and the main strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and challenges to the BIMSTEC process.

5+5=10

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