International Relations · GS - II

‘India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka.’ Discuss India’s role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in the light of the preceding statement.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2022	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

India–Sri Lanka relations are rooted in geographical proximity, cultural links and longstanding cooperation. During Sri Lanka’s 2022 economic crisis, India provided financial assistance, fuel, food, medicines and credit support, demonstrating its commitment to regional stability and its Neighbourhood First policy.

Model Answer

Introduction

India and Sri Lanka share historical, cultural and economic ties. Sri Lanka’s severe economic crisis in 2022 tested this relationship, as shortages of fuel, food, medicines and foreign exchange caused widespread hardship.

Body

India’s Role During the Crisis

1. Financial Assistance: India extended assistance worth approximately US$4 billion through credit facilities, currency support and other arrangements to help Sri Lanka meet urgent needs.

2. Essential Supplies: India facilitated the supply of fuel, food and medicines, helping alleviate shortages affecting ordinary citizens.

3. Credit Support: Credit lines enabled Sri Lanka to purchase essential commodities and petroleum products during the foreign-exchange crisis.

4. Humanitarian Cooperation: India's assistance reflected its commitment to regional stability and the welfare of the Sri Lankan population.

5. Strategic Significance: Support strengthened bilateral trust and demonstrated India's Neighbourhood First policy while contributing to stability in the Indian Ocean region.

Challenges and Way Forward

Emergency assistance cannot resolve structural economic problems alone. Sri Lanka requires fiscal reforms, debt restructuring, economic diversification and transparent governance. India must continue cooperation while respecting Sri Lanka's sovereignty.

Conclusion

India's response to Sri Lanka's crisis reaffirmed their longstanding friendship. Sustained economic cooperation, connectivity and people-to-people ties can strengthen regional stability and mutual prosperity.

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