

# GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1063)

Name of Candidate	Neha	Registration Number	135596
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Date	—
Center	—		

## INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).  
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
- There are **TWENTY** questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
- All questions are compulsory.  
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.  
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
- Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.  
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.  
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.  
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

# EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
  2. Content Competence
  3. Language Competence
  4. Introduction Competence
  5. Structure - Presentation Competence
  6. Conclusion Competence
- 

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.



1. Explaining the significance of RCEP, discuss various aspects of India's engagement in this initiative. (150 words) 10

RCEP के महत्व की व्याख्या करते हुए, इस पहल में भारत की महभागिता के विभिन्न पहलुओं पर चर्चा कीजिए।

RCEP is the proposed trade agreement between ASEAN and its 6 FTA partners → India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand.

Its significance includes:

- (1) It will be the largest FTA in the world → almost 40% GDP.
- (2) In absence of FTA with China, it will serve as one.
- (3) covers goods, services, people movements.

The negotiations have been halted mainly due to India's objections due to:

- (1) Demand to eliminate tariffs for almost 92% goods, India is ready for upto 86% goods and even lesser for China
- (2) Australia and NZ demand to



Open agriculture and dairy imports.

- (3) Refusal of countries to consider more lenient move of people and services.
- (4) Demand for TRIPS+ IPR regime which can harm India's pharma sector.
- (5) ISDM → India wants litigation in Indian courts for at least 5 years before approaching foreign courts.
- (6) E-commerce → India is not open to allow free trade in e-commerce.

Way forward:

Negotiations to solve the issues at hand, and tie the proposed FTA with domestic policies to protect market and reduce trade deficit.

RCEP can help increase India's service exports if negotiated well.



2. It has been acknowledged widely that smart power is the best possible way for achieving intended foreign policy outcomes. Examine in the context of India. (150 words) 10

यह व्यापक रूप से स्वीकार किया गया है कि स्मार्ट पावर विदेश नीति के अपेक्षित परिणामों को प्राप्त करने का सर्वोत्तम संभव तरीका है। भारत के संदर्भ में इसका परीक्षण कीजिए।

Smart power is the combination of soft power (culture, values, diaspora) and hard power (economy, defence)

Smart power is the best way for achieving intended foreign policy outcomes as demonstrated by India in:

- (1) SAARC countries minus Pakistan → leveraging on cultural ties and providing economic assistance, lines of credit, infrastructure building
- (2) Indian Ocean Region → through initiatives like "Mausam" for cultural ties and building bases like Agalega, Assumption, agreements on Dugm, Chabahar along with strengthened navy to act as "Net security provider"



(3) ASEAN → "Buddhist circuit" and infrastructure projects, defence cooperation, maritime exercises like SIMBEX, CORPAT.

(4) West Asia → strong Indian diaspora and its contribution to nation building there has helped India increase economic and cultural ties → investments in NIEF, defence cooperations

(5) Africa → old cultural ties, strong diaspora, along with Africa network by India which provides tele-education, tele-medicine, HRD

(6) Central Asia → scholarships under ITEC for skill training, proposal for e-network.

Thus, we see India using Smart power to increase its influence in various nations. USA and Europe are areas where further work can be done.



3. On the one hand, water has the potential of bringing closer regional integration in South Asia, on the other it has remained symbolic of the trust deficit between the countries in India's neighbourhood. Analyse.

(150 words) 10

जहाँ एक ओर, जल में दक्षिण एशिया में क्षेत्रीय एकीकरण को और अधिक घनिष्ठ बनाने की क्षमता है, वहीं दूसरी ओर यह भारत के पड़ोसी देशों के बीच विश्वास की कमी का प्रतीक रहा है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Transnational rivers are a source of both cooperation and conflict.

In South Asia, we see:

(1) Pakistan → Indus Water Treaty has survived multiple wars, insurgency and terrorism. However Pakistan's objection to Kishenganga, Ratle projects in spite of Permanent Indus Commission's approval shows the mistrust.

(2) China → on Doklam standoff, China refused to share the hydrography data of Brahmaputra. India fears the dams being constructed by China can be used to flood NE.

(3) Bangladesh → Ganga water treaty is a successful agreement.



but India's internal politics have prevented Tista agreement.

Bangladesh opposes the Tipaimukh project fearing water loss.

(4) China has refused to provide data for all year and only shares 4 months data of Brahmaputra. This leads to mistrust in lower riparian India, Bangladesh.

(5) Bhutan → has huge hydro-electricity potential but delay in projects has led to cost rise and almost 80% foreign debt to India.

Countries are nothing but artificially separated lands and the natural entities like rivers do not recognize any countries.

Hence transparency, mutual agreement and environmental ~~are~~ needs to be incorporated in water issues across South Asia.



4. Despite a strong case for a Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) between India and the European Union (EU), negotiations have been stuck for long owing to multiple factors. Analyse. (150 words) 10

भारत और यूरोपीय संघ (EU) के बीच व्यापक आधार वाले व्यापार और निवेश समझौते (ब्रॉडबेस्ड ट्रेड एंड इन्वेस्टमेंट अग्रीमेंट: BTIA) हेतु सुदृढ़ परिस्थितियां होने के बावजूद कई कारकों के चलते वार्ता लम्बे समय से अटकी हुयी है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

India unilaterally terminated its trade agreements and has been negotiating BTIA with EU ever since.

EU can be a market for Indian services and migrants while EU can export its technical expertise, strengthening the cause for a BTIA. However the negotiations have been stuck owing to:

(1) Demand for greater access and reduced tariffs for wine, automobiles, spirits by the EU.

(2) Reluctance of EU for greater access to India's service exports and short term work visas

(3) EU not granting India "Data Safe Status".



(4) TRIPS + IPR regime demanded which will harm India's pharma sector → demand to remove compulsory licensing and evergreening clause

(5) ISDM → investor state dispute redressal mechanism. India wants companies to litigate in Indian courts for 5 years before foreign courts.

(6) Possibility of agriculture exports from EU, which are highly subsidized and may affect Indian agro sector.

(7) Demand by EU of opening agriculture and government procurement.

Hence, the differences over issues like service, agriculture, IPR and litigation are halting the BTIA negotiations and India needs to refer to its model BTA to protect own interest.



5. Non-alignment, though much debated, has retained its significance over the years in India's foreign policy engagements. Comment.

(150 words) 10

गुट-निरपेक्षता ने काफी विवादित होने के बावजूद भारत की विदेश नीति संबंधी विषयों में वर्षों से अपना महत्व बनाए रखा है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Non-alignment, at the time of NAM referred to not aligning either with USA or USSR.

Though NAM is no longer relevant in the increasingly multipolar, globalized world, non-alignment as a policy is very much relevant.

It can be seen in India's foreign policy engagements like

- (1) Defence cooperation with both USA and Russia → India even got CAATSA waiver from USA to buy \$400 from Russia
- (2) Diplomatic ties with Iran, Saudi Arabia, Israel → 3 mutually antagonistic players. Saudi contributes to remittances, energy security, counter terrorism cooperation.



Israel has become a defence partner and also for water management, R&D, innovation, Palestine relationship has been dehynphenated and India retains support for 2 nation theory.

Iran is a gateway to Afghan and Central Asia.

This non-aligned approach has helped India to :

- (1) Vote against Israel in UN yet retain the partnership.
- (2) Vote in favour of Russia in Syria issue without antagonising USA.

However, India's stances in some cases like Crimnea and Iran sanctions were in support of Russia and USA respectively instead of based on traditional commitment to non-violence, sovereignty.

Yet, non alignment remains a bedrock of India's foreign policy.



6. India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950 forms the bedrock of the India-Nepal relations. However, considering recent changes in the region, revising the treaty would be a prudent step. Analyse. (150 words) 10

भारत-नेपाल शांति एवं मैत्री संधि, 1950 भारत-नेपाल संबंधों की आधारशिला निर्मित करती है। यद्यपि, इस क्षेत्र में हाल में हुए परिवर्तनों पर विचार करते हुए, इस संधि में संशोधन करना एक विवेकपूर्ण कदम होगा। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

India and Nepal share a 'roti-beti' relationship and the Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950 is a testimony to the same.

However, certain issues in the region in recent times include :

- (1) Coming to power of a united communist alliance in Nepal, widely perceived as anti-India and its closeness to China.
- (2) Amendment to Nepal's constitution which does not take into account the aspirations of Madhesis → who have ties to India.
- (3) China's infrastructure projects in Nepal → rail network to Tibet.



broadband facility, access to Chinese ports to the land locked Nepal, Nepal as a part of BRI.

(4) Use of open border to smuggle goods from China and also for terrorists, FLCN from Pakistan.

However, a Nepal under China's influence would threaten India's security interests and the need is to make efforts to mend the relationship.

Way forward:

(1) Rebuild the trust lost due to blockade which was perceived as India backed

(2) No interference in the constitution making process and not to be seen as backing Madhesis.

(3) Use soft power to counter China's hard power.



7. Accession to the Ashgabat agreement is valuable for connecting India to its extended neighbourhood. What is the Ashgabat Agreement? Assess its significance for India. (150 words) 10

अशगाबात समझौते में शामिल होना वस्तुतः भारत के लिए अपने विस्तारित पड़ोस से जुड़ने की दृष्टि से मूल्यवान है। अशगाबात समझौता क्या है? भारत के लिए इसके महत्व का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Ashgabat agreement is a connectivity project between Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Iran and Oman.

India has recently joined it.

The project aims to be a multimodal transit project.

Its significance to India is:

- (1) Route to Central Asia → in absence of direct land border, India-Central Asia trade is only \$ 2 Bn. This can increase as Central Asia has uranium in Kazakhstan, gold in Uzbekistan and other mineral resources too.
- (2) Connect to Afghanistan → will increase utilization of Chabahar to trade with Afghan and other Central Asian neighbours.



from Afghanistan.

(3) Alternate to choke points of Strait of Hormuz and Bab-Al-Mandeb

(4) Can design alternate gas pipeline instead of TAPI which has security concerns.

(5) Connect to Caspian littorals → from Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan

The trade to Caspian littorals like Armenia, Georgia is possible

(6) Can help increase potential of INSTC → can cover entire Central Asia and upto Europe

India is looking at increasing its presence in Central Asia and Ashgabat Agreement can be the perfect conduit for the same.



8. The peace initiative of the Afghan government has raised some difficulties for India, nonetheless India's engagement with Afghanistan is strong enough to withstand such difficulties. Discuss. (150 words) 10

अफगान सरकार की शांति पहल ने भारत के लिए कुछ कठिनाइयां उत्पन्न की हैं, इसके बावजूद भी अफगानिस्तान के साथ भारत की भागीदारी इस प्रकार की कठिनाइयों का सामना करने हेतु पर्याप्त रूप से सशक्त है। चर्चा कीजिए।

India has always supported an Afghan-owned, Afghan-led peace and reconciliation process.

However, the peace initiative of Afghan government has issues of:

- (1) Afghan government is ready for discussions with Taliban → contrary to India's stance of stopping all violence before any talks can be started.
- (2) Readiness for power sharing agreement with Taliban → this is also backed by Pak, USA, Russia, China.

India, unlike all these, does not differentiate between 'Good Taliban' and 'Bad Taliban'.



(3) Power struggle within the elected government → between Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah further complicates the situation.

However, the Indo-Afghan relation is strong enough as:

- (1) India's policy of non-alignment
- (2) India is not a direct party to proposed talks with Taliban but only an observer
- (3) India has spent almost \$ 2 Bn on infra development in Afghanistan → Parliament, Salma Dam, Delaram-Baram Highway.
- (4) Trade will pick up soon as Chabahar has been made operational.
- (5) India's assistance in training of Afghan police and security forces.

A stable Afghanistan is desired by all and this may

necessitate involving all stakeholders, even Taliban.



9. The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a natural choice for India to fulfill key foreign policy priorities. In this context, discuss the issues behind hitherto slow progress and the reasons for reinvigorated optimism regarding BIMSTEC.

(150 words) 10

बहु-क्षेत्रीय तकनीकी एवं आर्थिक सहयोग के लिए बंगाल की खाड़ी पहल (BIMSTEC), भारत के लिए अपनी विदेश नीति संबंधी प्रमुख प्राथमिकताओं की पूर्ति हेतु एक स्वाभाविक चयन है। इस संदर्भ में, अब तक हुई धीमी प्रगति के पीछे निहित मुद्दों और BIMSTEC के संबंध में पुनर्जीवित होते आशावाद की चर्चा कीजिए।

With the impasse over SAARC due to Pakistan's presence BIMSTEC is the natural platform for India to deliberate on its foreign policy initiatives in its neighbourhood.

However, the progress had been slow hitherto due to:

- (1) India's greater interest in SAARC and Myanmar, Thailand's greater interest in ASEAN
- (2) Too many topics → over 16 common areas had been identified leading to over burdening
- (3) No regular meetings → only 4 meetings at national head level since inception.



(4) No permanent secretariat or staff.

(5) Political instability in some member countries.

However, there is now a reinvigorated optimism about BIMSTEC due to:

(1) India's "Act East" policy

(2) Bangladesh's rise economically and its desire to play a bigger role in neighbourhood  
→ strong political leadership of Begum Shaikh Hasina

(3) Identification of only 6 areas on which the initiative should focus → as proposed by Thailand  
→ like trade, maritime security, commerce, connectivity

(4) Permanent Secretariat in Dhaka.

BIMSTEC can be India's bridge to ASEAN and a substitute to SAARC. However, need to look at other ways of engaging with Pak, Afghan, Maldives



10. Highlighting its mandate, discuss the significance of International Solar Alliance in positioning India to a key global leadership role.

(150 words) 10

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सौर गठबंधन के अधिदेश पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, भारत को एक प्रमुख वैश्विक नेतृत्वकर्ता की भूमिका में स्थान दिलाने में इसके महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए।

International Solar Alliance is an alliance of countries between Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn to increase adoption of solar energy.

Its mandates include:

- (1) Generating at least 1000 GW of solar energy by 2022
- (2) Providing a fund with voluntary contributions to help increase adoption of solar energy.
- (3) Providing technical assistance and training → example:  
'Solar Mamas' are trained by India in its Barefoot College.  
→ Solar pioneers for African countries
- (4) Reduce dependency on fossil fuels and help fulfil



Paris agreement commitment  
of keeping temperature rise  
below  $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  by 2050

The significance of ISA  
in positioning India to a  
key global leadership role  
includes:

- (1) First international organiz<sup>n</sup>  
with headquarters in India
- (2) Monetary contribution by  
India shows its commitment  
to climate change fight
- (3) Propels India to a leadership  
position in climate change  
initiative, when West, USA  
are relegating on commitments
- (4) Will help fulfill INDCs
- (5) Soft power in Africa by  
training and livelihood support
- (6) Strengthens our demand  
for "Common but Differentiated  
Responsibilities"



11. India's engagement with its extended neighbourhood in West Asia has evolved into a 'Look West' approach in recent times. However, multiple faultlines in this volatile region require a balancing act on the part of India. Discuss. (250 words) 15

पश्चिम एशिया में अपने विस्तारित पड़ोस के साथ भारत की सहभागिता हाल के दिनों में 'लुक वेस्ट' दृष्टिकोण के रूप में विकसित हुई है। हालांकि, इस अस्थिर क्षेत्र में उपस्थित कई फॉल्टलाइन्स भारत की ओर से एक संतुलनकारी कार्यवाही की मांग करते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

With over 11 million Indian diaspora, West Asia is home to the largest group of overseas Indians.

Ancient cultural and trad  
ties with the region are being  
rejuvenated with 'look west'  
approach. However, multiple  
faultlines in the region need  
a balanced approach due to:

(1) Arab v/s Israel conflict →  
the Arab countries are important  
for our energy security and  
remittances. UAE, Saudi Arabia  
have committed funds to NIF.  
While Israel is fast becoming  
an important defence partner  
and collaboration in water  
management, R & D, innovation.



India's 14% population is Muslim and has strong emotional feelings for the sufferings of the Palestinians.

India's commitment to non-violence and self-determination for Palestinians is essential.

Recent times have seen a de-hyphenation of the relation with these nations and is the right way forward.

(2) Shia v/s Sunni conflict →

Iran is essential for our energy security and access to Afghanistan and Central Asia through Chabahar.

India is home to second largest Shia community.

Hence a balance is needed in relation with Iran and the Saudi-led Sunni nations.

(3) Qatar boycott →

Qatar has been facing a



diplomatic and trade boycott from Saudi, Bahrain and other neighbours.

(4) Syrian crisis → India though not a party in the negotiations and action, needs to uphold the human rights value commitment on the international platforms in this matter.

(5) Yemen crisis → 'Operation Raahat' was carried on to airlift Indian workers.

The West Asian countries have conflicts among themselves on multiple axes.

Nonetheless, they remain important for India's economic and cultural partnership.

A non-aligned approach is the best way forward to avoid antagonising any party, and at the same time stay committed to core values.



12. While India and Russia have enjoyed good relations since the Soviet era, relying on the past may not be enough to deal with shift in the relationship in light of the rapidly evolving geopolitical realities. Comment.

(250 words) 15

यद्यपि सोवियत युग से ही भारत और रूस के संबंध मधुर रहे हैं, तथापि अतीत पर निर्भरता तेज़ी से विकसित होती भू-राजनीतिक वास्तविकताओं के प्रकाश में, संबंधों में आये बदलाव से निपटने हेतु पर्याप्त नहीं भी हो सकती हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

With the adoption of a planned economy and welfare economics, USSR was the natural ally India sought though remaining non-aligned

~~However~~, from defence, space, and trade cooperation, the relationship has only strengthened over the years.

However, the past is not a predictor of the future and the following evolving realities denote the shift:

(1) The new Cold War →

while post-USSR disintegration saw a unipolar world with USA being the only super-power, the rising protectionism and abdication by USA of its



leadership role in areas like free trade, climate change, NATO is making way for the rise of another powers.

China and Russia are the ascending powers and the trade embargoes are seen by many as a sign of a new Cold War.

(2) Russia - USA standoff → allegations of election meddling and snooping, CAATSA against Russia's partners, sacking of diplomats → all this points to a new low in USA Russia relationship.

(3) Russia - China closeness → \$800 million gas pipeline, trade cooperation and Russia's search for newer market for its oil after Western sanctions has drawn it close to China.

China has also supported



Russia with its veto on Syria issue in UNSC.

(4) Russia's aggressiveness in Crimea and pro-Assad stance in Syria.

India still sees Russia as a major defence partner, but efforts are being made to increase purchase from Israel and USA.

Russia is also a partner in BRICS, SCO, INSTC.

However, at the same time, Russia is wary of India's closeness to USA and India of Russia-China ties.

Way forward:

To increase trade partnership which is miniscule in non-defence sector.

And at the same time India should retain its sovereign foreign policy approach and remain non-aligned.



13. India-China ties, marked by a broad convergence on transnational issues, on one hand and geostrategic rivalry on the other, have profound implications not only for the two countries but also the current international system. Discuss. (250 words) 15

भारत-चीन संबंध, जो एक ओर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्दों पर व्यापक अभिसरण और दूसरी तरफ सुरणनीतिक प्रतिद्वंद्विता द्वारा चिन्हित होते हैं, इनका न केवल इन दोनों देशों के लिए बल्कि वर्तमान अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रणाली के लिए भी गंभीर निहितार्थ हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Though not neighbours in the past, historic events have brought India and China closer, both literally and figuratively.

The convergence in the two countries is seen in:

- (1) WTO negotiations
- (2) Reforms of IMF, World Bank
- (3) Climate change negotiations
- (4) BRICS initiatives like NDB, BRICS university, BRICS credit rating agency.

However, the geostrategic rivalry is demonstrated by:

- (1) China's claim over Aksai Chin, Arunachal Pradesh.
- (2) Skirmishes over the LAC and Macmohan line.



- (3) India's opposition to BRI due to issue of CPEC
- (4) 'String of Pearls' approach of China as viewed by Indian defence experts.
- (5) Rising trade deficit → over \$50 bn in China's favour.
- (6) China's veto over India's membership of NSG
- (7) China's refusal to name Hafiz Saeed as international terrorist.
- (8) China's overt and covert support to Pakistan.

These similarities and differences have an implication not just on the two countries but the international system as a whole as seen by:

- (1) WTO → Doha round is yet to be completed
- (2) RCEP negotiations are stalled, mainly due to India's



concern over further trade  
influence from China.

(3) Formation of "Quad"

(4) Malabar exercise has been  
made trilateral to include  
Japan

(5) BRI which is expected  
to rejuvenate the world  
trade will remain incomplete  
without India's participation.

(6) India's activities in Agalega  
island in Mauritius, Assumption  
island in Seychelles, Chabahar  
and China's bases in Gueadar,  
Djibouti, Sittue, Hambantota

→ may lead to militarization  
of Indian Ocean.

With the two largest  
populations and among the  
top 5 economies, it is but  
natural that Indo-China  
relation will affect the world.  
There needs to be a restraint  
from both sides and a firm



14. For BRICS to remain relevant, its members must make a realistic assessment of the Initiative's opportunities and inherent limitations. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

BRICS की प्रासंगिकता बनाये रखने के लिए, इसके सदस्यों को इसे उपलब्ध अवसरों और अंतर्निहित सीमाओं का वास्तविक मूल्यांकन करना चाहिए। चर्चा कीजिए।

With 40% of world population and 23% of world GDP, BRICS is an important bloc. However, the slow progress on its various initiatives demands a relook at the group.

The opportunities available to BRICS include:

- (1) Demand for free trade and following of WTO principles in face of rising protectionism in the West
- (2) Cooperation in human resource development, poverty alleviation, achieving SDGs, battle climate change.
- (3) Cooperation in reform of western dominated institutions like IMF, World Bank and economic development



However, certain limitations of the group include:

- (1) China and Russia are permanent members of UNSC → less committed to UN reforms
- (2) China and Russia are not democracies per se
- (3) The BRICS are spread over 4 continents and have less cultural ties and people to people contact
- (4) Differences in size of the economies and the growth rates
- (5) Different internal challenges
- (6) Rise of China and Russia which may make BRICS look like an anti-US establishment.
- (7) Political instability in Brazil

Hence, the need is to identify the areas of convergence and non-conflict and work on the same.



Some steps taken include:

- (1) NDB to help develop infrastructure and manpower
- (2) BRICS knowledge network and BRICS university are being proposed
- (3) They form a team during WTO, Paris Climate Change negotiations, IMF reforms.

However, issues that may not justify are:

- (1) BRICS trade union due to China's trade dominance
- (2) BRICS military exercise  
→ due to reluctance of India, Brazil, South Africa
- (3) Free movement of capital and manpower.

Identifying the limitations and relying on a consensus based model is the way forward for BRICS to achieve their objectives



15. Sluggish progress of the Doha round signals that the WTO is proving to be ineffective in promoting free trade. Identifying the factors behind this, comment on the relevance of WTO in present context. (250 words) 15

दोहा दौर की धीमी प्रगति संकेत करती है कि WTO, मुक्त व्यापार को प्रोत्साहित करने में अप्रभावी सिद्ध हो रहा है। इसके पीछे उत्तरदायी कारकों की पहचान करते हुए, वर्तमान संदर्भ में WTO की प्रासंगिकता पर टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Doha Development Round of WTO commenced in 2001 and is yet to be completed.

This denotes the ineffectiveness of WTO in promoting free trade and the factors causing this are:

- (1) WTO is a consensus based organisation → consensus among 150+ countries is difficult to achieve
- (2) USA's refusal to approve appointment of judges to the WTO dispute redressal body → lack of manpower, overburdened body
- (3) Over bureaucratization
- (4) Refusal of developed countries to conclude negotiations on the



'place clause' for India which is important for its agriculture and food security.

(5) Refusal to restructure the 3 types of subsidies and use current year figures instead of 1986 base year.

(6) Attempt by developed countries to introduce new topics like e-commerce, MSME, gender and trade, which developing countries view as a form of non-tariff barrier.

(7) No clear definitions and solutions to issues of sanitary and phytosanitary barriers.

However, the WTO still remains relevant as:

(1) Preference treatment to LDCs is helping them attract investment and develop a manufacturing base.

(2) Measures like anti-dumping



duty are helping countries protect their local industries

(3) Proposed FTA is expected to increase world GDP by 1% and generate almost 200 million jobs worldwide

(4) MEN treatment has helped smaller nations

Way forward:

(1) Reduce over-bureaucratization and evolve a new decision making mechanism

(2) Multilateral treaties like TPP, RCEP, NAFTA may help fill the vacuum caused due to WTO impasse.

(3) Using informal sessions and ministerial negotiations to help all countries put forward their concerns and evolve the talks.

Globalization is an irreversible process and WTO will help sustain it to



16. The India-France Strategic Partnership launched in 1998 seems to have finally come of age. Comment. (250 words) 15

1998 में आरंभ भारत-फ्रांस रणनीतिक साझेदारी, अंततः परिपक्व होती प्रतीत हो रही है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

India-France Strategic partnership was launched in 1998 and since then the cooperation in Defence, Space, trade and diplomacy has only strengthened.

The France was among the few nations that supported India after the 1974 nuclear test. It also was amongst the first to sign a civil nuclear agreement.

The relationship can be seen as below:

- (1) Space Sector → larger satellites are launched by France from Kourou
- (2) Defence → Rafale, Agusta are French companies and we have sourced important equipment from them.



(3) Nuclear power → the proposed plant in Jaitapur is in French partnership

(4) Diplomacy → France being a permanent member of UNSC, supports India's claim to permanent seat with veto power. It also supports India's NSG entry.

(5) Solar Alliance → jointly launched by India and France on the sidelines of Paris COP, ISA is the first international organisation headquartered in India.

It seeks to achieve at least 1000 GW solar power consumption in coming years and aims to help with funding and technology support to achieve the same.

(6) Indian Ocean → France territory 'Reunion Island'



is in Indian Ocean and India has refueling rights at the base.

France has also shown interest in joining "Quad".

France also sees India as a 'net security provider' in the Indian Ocean Region.

(7) Bilateral Exercises →

'Garuda' between airforces

'Varuna' between navies

and we also have one between the armies.

Way forward:

Bilateral trade is still under-utilized.

Linguistic barriers can be overcome to encourage people to people contacts.

BTIA if concluded, can further enhance the bilateral relation.



17. Despite the great strides made, India-ASEAN relations have not measured up to expectations. Critically examine in the context of recent commemoration of relations by the two sides through the Delhi Declaration. (250 words) 15

उत्कृष्ट प्रगति के बावजूद, भारत-ASEAN संबंध अपेक्षाओं पर खरे नहीं उतरे हैं। दिल्ली घोषणापत्र के माध्यम से दोनों पक्षों द्वारा हाल ही में मनाये गए संबंधों के स्मरणोत्सव के संदर्भ में आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

India being the largest country in South Asia, and ASEAN being the bloc of South-East Asian countries, it was but natural for the two to come close.

India-ASEAN relations have completed 50 years and Delhi Declaration commemorated the same.

The ties over the years have seen success stories like:

- (1) Cooperation on international platforms.
- (2) Cooperation in fighting insurgency, terrorism, drug trafficking, security of Indian Ocean Region.



- (3) People to people contact
- (4) Presence of large Indian diaspóra in countries like Singapore
- (5) cultural ties from Ancient era with Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam.
- (6) India-ASEAN FTA, due to which Trade has increased
- (7) Large FDIs from Singapore

However, there remain several unresolved issues like :

- (1) RCEP negotiations are seen to be stalled mainly due to India's objections
- (2) FTA has been seen to be more beneficial to ASEAN and trade deficit of India has increased → automobile, textile sectors affected due to imports from ASEAN
- (3) Pro-China tilt of certain



countries like Cambodia and hostility towards China by countries like Vietnam.

(4) slow progress on connective projects → Kaladan multimodal project, IMT Trilateral highway

(5) Political instability in Myanmar which is India's gateway to ASEAN.

(6) Scope to increase India's exports remains underutilized due to resistance to open the service sectors, people movement

ASEAN is core to the 'Act East' policy. Initiatives like 'Buddha Circuit', 'Nalanda University', 'Val' Ramayana Circuit' are efforts to hark back to the cultural ties.

India-ASEAN share a history and India enjoys soft power with the region which can be leveraged to strengthen the ties



18. India's expanding interests rather than endorsement by others should be the basis of its engagement with what is being termed as the Indo-Pacific. Analyse. (250 words) 15

हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में भारत की संलग्नता अन्य देशों को समर्थन के स्थान पर भारत के विस्तृत होते हितों पर आधारित होनी चाहिए। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

With 90% of India's oil imports and sea trade coming through Indian Ocean, the region is of strategic interest to India.

The usage of term "Indo Pacific" in America's National Security Strategy is one of the examples of rising importance of the region.

However, India's engagement in the region should be on its own terms and to cater to own interests like:

- (1) Energy Security → oil trade
- (2) Trade Security
- (3) Choke points like Strait of Hormuz and Bab-Al-Mandeb need to be free and secure.
- (4) National Security → China is



believed to be building a 'String of Pearls' and India has been building naval bases and infrastructure to counter the same with a 'Garland of flowers'.

(5) Piracy → which threatens Indian vessels too

(6) Need for free, open SLOCs, navigation and overflight

(7) Need to protect against drug trafficking, arms and human trafficking which are using sea routes

(8) Refugee Crisis → Rohingyas are using the ocean routes. Refugees from Syria, Yemen are also using the waterways

(9) China's BRI → seen as a form of neo-colonialism where countries like Sri Lanka, Maldives have handed strategic land to China.



All these make it essential for India to act as a "Net Security Provider" of the region.

However India should be wary of:

- (1) Getting entangled in USA's 'Pivot to Asia' to counter China
- (2) Militarizing the "Quad" which can be seen as an anti-China alliance.
- (3) Delaying projects → like Asia Africa Growth Corridor, Chabahar, INSTC as it will give an upper hand to China
- (4) Involvement in South China Sea issue as it is not our EEZ.

Thus, a free, open and secure 'Indo-Pacific' remains critical to SAGAR → security and growth for all.



19. In what ways has the engagement between India and its diaspora evolved over the years? What role can the Indian diaspora play in furthering and shaping India's foreign policy goals? (250 words) 15

भारत और इसके डायस्पोरा के बीच सहभागिता बीते वर्षों के दौरान किस तरह विकसित हुई है? भारत की विदेशी नीति के लक्ष्यों को आगे बढ़ाने और आकार देने में भारतीय डायस्पोरा क्या भूमिका निभा सकते हैं?

Indian diaspora stands at over 25 million, the second largest in the world.

The engagement between India and its diaspora has evolved over the years as:

(1) Pre-1947 → the indentured labourers in Caribbean, Africa and South East Asia were encouraged to integrate with ~~some~~ resident countries and eventually lost ties with India.

the immigrants in North America did make efforts to contribute to the freedom struggle, but their numbers were lesser than the former ones.

(2) 1947 to 1970 → Commonwealth rules helped migration to UK. USA, Canada were other locations.



and this wave consisted of both blue collar workers and entrepreneurs who soon grew prosperous in their resident countries, and citizens

3) 1970 to 1990 → while the West wave continued and also included qualified professionals, oil rush in Gulf led to huge migration. These migrants contributed the most to remittances and maintained closest ties with India, mainly due to non-issuance of permanent citizenship

4) post 1991 → with LP G, the MNCs increased in India and so did short term migration for work as well as education, mainly to USA, Canada and EU. Australia, NZ emerged as new destinations. Increasing hostility, racism



and rising protectionism has made this wave the most culture conscious and assertive.

The role they can play in furthering and shaping India's foreign policy goals are:

- (1) Economic → remittances, FDI, investment in bonds and equity market to strengthen Indian economy
- (2) Soft power → spread of culture, Bollywood, Yoga, Ayush
- (3) Reputational approach → by showing prowess in IT skills, STEM, law abiding nature
- (4) Political → formation of Indian caucus in USA, increased elected representatives of Indian origin in USA, Canada, UK. Even ministerial berths. They can act as a pressure group to further India's interests.

Pravasi Bhartiya Divas and other MEA initiatives will



20. India-Bangladesh relations have been termed one of fraternal friendship. What have been the key achievements in this context in the last few years? Also, identify steps to further consolidate these relations. (250 words) 15

भारत-बांग्लादेश संबंधों को भ्रातृत्व पूर्ण मित्रता में से एक कहा जाता है। बीते कुछ वर्षों में इस संदर्भ में प्रमुख उपलब्धियां क्या रही हैं? साथ ही, इन संबंधों को आगे और सुदृढ़ बनाने हेतु कुछ उपायों की पहचान कीजिए।

India shares a 4000 km land border with Bangladesh, its longest with any neighbour.

The shared relation includes cultural, economic and people to people ties.

The key achievements in last few years include:

(1) Land Boundary Agreement → 100th Constitutional amendment which allowed exchange of enclaves

(2) Akhaura-Agartala Railway line which will help reduce the travel time from Kolkata to Agartala for goods by almost 10 days → Trade in NE ↑

(3) Narrowing down of key areas of BIMSTEC, finalising a permanent secretariat in



Dhaka. Joint military exercise between BIMSTEC

(4) BBIN free travel for vehicles.

(5) Ganga water sharing agreement

(6) Efforts made by Bangladesh to halt illegal immigration

(7) India's assistance to Bangladesh to help Rohingyas.

However, certain issues remain:

(1) BSF claims illegal immigration still continues

(2) NRC in Assam → lack of any exchange agreement with Bangladesh which marks a question on status of those not included in NRC

(3) Teesta water agreement could not be concluded

(4) Bangladesh objection to proposed Tipaimukh project over river Barak.



(5) China is developing the port of Chittagong which India fears may be militarized as part of 'String of Pearls'

(6) Presence of HUJI radical groups with anti-India rhetoric. BNP the main opposition party supports them.

Way forward to consolidate the relations:

(1) Completion of hydropower and other infrastructure projects as committed by India in a timely manner

(2) Leverage BIMSTEC to cooperate on trade, HRD, economic development, maritime security, counter terrorism.

(3) Strengthen border security to stop migrants, drug, arms and human trafficking, FCIN inflow

India and Bangladesh can build on the historic goodwill to cooperate for security and growth