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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1063)

Name of Candidate	Shweta Anupam		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English		
Center		Registration Number	37549
		Date	24/12/18

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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18	15	
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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।

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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 सहभागिता के विभिन्न पहलुओं पर चर्चा कीजिए।

RCEP is a proposed comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the 10 ASEAN member and their 6 FTA in partners - India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

Significance of RCEP

- It represents over 40% of world's population and around 30% of world's GDP and trade.
- It will significantly boost trade in the region.
- Improved South-South cooperation.
- It will allow countries to better utilize their strengths (eg. services sector of India) while increasing their export and trade potential.

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Aspects of India's engagement

- India is sceptical about signing RCEP as it can lead to huge influx of Chinese goods in Indian markets.
- India wants an Agreement on Services to be simultaneously signed with agreement on goods as India can benefit from increased access to its services sector.
- Japan's proposed TRIPS+ framework is also a concern for India as it can pose danger to India's generic medicines market.

The member countries of the proposed RCEP must work out their concerns amicably so that the partnership is mutually beneficial to all.

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 represents a judicious mix of hard power and soft power. It significantly improves a country's maneuverability and yields rich foreign policy dividends.

India has stressed on and utilized smart power in its foreign policy which can be seen as:-

Hard Power: in form of surgical strikes in Pakistan, Doklam stand-off.

Soft Power:-

- International recognition and acceptance of Yoga, Ayurveda etc.
- Project Mausam
- Development assistance to its

neighbours like Bhutan, Afghanistan etc.
→ forging ties with countries (like
Africa, West Asia etc) based on
shared history and culture.

move from idealism to Realism

- De-hyperbation of ties with
Israel and Palestine
- Maintaining good ties with both
Russia and USA.

The prudent use of smart
power has yielded significant
returns for India in past as well
as contemporary times. Its
continued usage will further
accentuate India's position in global
order.

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।

The various inter-state rivers in South Asia have resulted in a myriad of complex relationships between nations ranging from cooperation to conflict.

Points of conflict:-

- China's purported dam-building and water-diversion of Brahmaputra which poses threat to India.
- Continued disputes between India and Pakistan despite signing of Indus-Water Treaty.
- Teesta river dispute between India and Bangladesh.
- China's refusal to share hydrological data, except in monsoon

- Potential for closer integration
- Mekong-Ganga Cooperation → to promote improved ties & among people living along these 2 civilisational rivers.
 - Common sacrifice provided to rivers like Ganga in both India and Nepal.
 - Cultural ties among people living along the banks of these rivers.

The potential of these inter-state rivers to improve ties between South Asian countries must be utilized. Some required steps are:-

- ① Implementation of a Trans-Himalayan framework for all Himalayan rivers.
- ② Better and transparent data-sharing between nations.
- ③ Upper riparian states must be mindful of interests of lower riparian states.

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 परिस्थितियाँ होने के बावजूद कई कारकों के चलते वार्ता लम्बे समय से अटकी हुयी है। विवेचन कीजिए।

Negotiations for a Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) between India and EU are on since 2007. However multiple reasons have led to sluggish progress on the Agreement's negotiations. like:-

- ① EU wants India to remove tariff on its motorcycles import which India is reluctant to concede.
- ② Indian pharmaceuticals are seeking a bigger market in EU.
- ③ Issue related to IPR protection.
- ④ India's service sector exports are demanding a larger market which EU is not ready to give.

The proposed RTIA will be beneficial for both ^{India & EU} ~~countries~~. Thus concerns of both must be mutually assuaged.

How RTIA will be beneficial for both

- Larger market for both India and EU
- Can further boost India-EU trade which currently stands around 126 billion \$ USD.
- Employment for India's service personnel in EU
- Can allow both to utilize each other's expertise in manufacturing and services.

5. Non-alignment, though much debated, has retained its significance over the years in India's foreign policy engagements. Comment. (150 words) 10

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

The policy of non-alignment was adopted by India soon after its independence. It implied not aligning with any of the two superpowers - the US and USSR at that time.

Significance of non-alignment for India

- Allowed India to emerge as a leader of third-world developing countries.
- has led to increase in India's stature globally with many countries following India's example in non-alignment.
- Has allowed India to maintain good ties with both US and Russia.

- Allows India to take foreign policy decisions independently without pressure from outside.
- Helps India to forge meaningful relationships with other countries based on ^{self.} merit.
- Provides credibility to India's demand for a permanent seat of UN Security Council.

Thus despite debates that non-alignment has lost its relevance, it continues to be a cornerstone 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 आधारभूत नीति 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 close historical and cultural ties which formed the bases for signing the India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950.

Provisions of Treaty

→ Provides non-discriminatory treatment to Nepal's citizens in India in terms of education, employment, residence etc.

→ Nepal has to consult India before any defence deals or establishing military relations with any other country.

→ It prevents usage of each other's territory in a manner that can be detrimental to other's interests.

Why revision in Treaty is required
① It is outdated & signed way back in 1950. Geo-political scenario has changed a lot.

② Popular sentiment in Nepal against provisions which they feel are a threat to Nepal's sovereignty.

③ Leads to accusation of 'big-brotherly attitude' by Nepal on India.

India must respect the popular demand in Nepal for the revision of the Treaty. Also the Treaty must be revised to take into account the changed geo-political scenario.

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

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

The Ashgabat Agreement has been signed between India and Central Asian countries. It aims to improve connectivity in the Central Asian region.

Significance of Ashgabat Agreement

- Will lead to better connectivity between India and Central Asia. Presently, the connectivity is poor.
- Will lead to improved bilateral trade and investment.
- Stability in Central Asian region is vital for India.
- Can help in meeting energy demands of India.

→ Will help in reducing China's
clout in the region.

A Signing the Agreement
will yield immense
benefits for India in the
long run.

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 कठिनाइयाँ 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 and Afghanistan share close historical and cultural ties along with robust people-to-people connect.

Afghanistan has been grappling with the internal conflict with Taliban which has eroded the region's peace and stability. However the recent peace initiative of Afg Afghan government raises some concerns for India like:-

- ① It proposes bringing Taliban to discussion table which India is strictly against. India vouches for a 'Afghan-led, Afghan-owned' peace process.

- ② India is skeptical about the role of Pakistan in the region.
- ③ The presence of extra-territorial ~~for~~ regional players like US and Russia worries India.
- ④ An unstable solution can lead to security concerns in India. Thus India desires a lasting peace in Afghanistan.

However in Afghanistan also accords a central place to India in its peace process. Moreover, the development and by India to Afghanistan and people-to-people contacts have led to a very positive popular perception about India. India must build on its relationships with Afghanistan while trying to bring peace swiftly to the region.

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।

BIMSTEC comprises 7 members - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

Issues behind slow progress :-

Don't write anything this margin
(इस शीर्षक में कुछ न लिखें)

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।

The International Solar Alliance was conceived by India and France on the sidelines of 2015 Paris Climate Summit.

The It aims to promote rapid deployment of solar energy by the countries lies between the Tropics which receive abundant solar energy throughout the year.

Significance for India

- It is the first inter-governmental treaty based alliance to be headquartered in India (in Gurgaon).
- It promotes India's position as a leader and forerunner in concept of solar energy in the world.

- It shows India's commitment towards meeting its Paris Climate Agreement commitments.
- With US choosing to opt out of Paris deal, it helps fortify India's position as a strong ^{global} advocate for measures to ~~reduce~~ climate change.
- It strengthens further India-France relationship.

The International Solar Alliance is an important international effort in the field of renewable (solar) energy. India must make the most of it and must redouble its efforts for increased deployment of solar power.

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 महामाया हाल के दिनों में 'लुक वेस्ट' दृष्टिकोण के रूप में विकसित हुई है। हालांकि, इस अस्थिर क्षेत्र में उपस्थित कई कॉन्फ्लिक्ट्स भारत की ओर से एक संतुलनकारी कार्यवाही की मांग करते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

The West Asia comprises countries like Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan etc. India considers them to be a part of its extended neighbourhood.

For better engagement with its West Asian partners, India had launched the 'Look West' Policy. The region also shares close historical ties with India.

Importance of West Asia for India

→ West Asia is rich in mineral reserves and energy sources that can alleviate India's energy security concerns.

- West Asia looks to India as a security partner & security provider in the region.
- India has shared robust ties with West Asia over the years.

Challenges due to multiple faultlines in West Asia

- Political uncertainties as region is grapples with political instability.
- Radicalisation and extremism among youth is on the rise.
- Hotbed for terrorist organisations like Al-Qaeda.
- Economically under-developed with lack of industries.
- Geographically bordering Russia and China and that can affect independent relations with these countries.

→ Connectivity crises - An airline between India & West Asia was only recently established.

Thus to engage more constructively with the region, India needs to play a balancing role in form of:-

- Improving connectivity with the region through initiatives like International North-South Corridor.
- Share its expertise in services sector with West Asia
- Help in economic development of the region through development aid and infrastructure projects
- Encourage people-to-people contacts

A well-coordinated policy approach with West Asia can yield rich dividends for India in the long run.

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 आगे बदलाव से निपटने हेतु पर्याप्त नहीं भी हो सकती है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Though India and Russia have enjoyed extremely good ties in the past, the current geo-political scenario demands a more concerted approach than just leaning on the past.

Historically good ties:-

- India & erstwhile USSR signed the Treaty of Friendship in 1971 which was renewed with Russia in 1993.
- Russia has supported us on all international forums.
- We enjoy robust defence ties with Russia. 70% of India's defence equipment import comes from Russia.
- Favourable public perception in both

countries.

Evolution of geopolitical realities and consequent shift in relationships

→ Rise China factor → Russia has tilted towards China in recent times after US and EU imposed sanctions on it.

→ Improving US-India ties which Russia views with suspicion.

→ Diversification of India's defence equipment import with countries like US, Israel providing weapons too.

→ ~~The~~ Russia's improving military ties with Pakistan - joint exercises and providing equipment as well

→ Stagnation of bilateral trade

→ The changing geo-political realities mandate both countries to re-work their policy approach towards each other as they continue to be

relevant and important for each other's needs.

Steps to be taken.

- India must convey to Russia that the spirit in India-US ties isn't going to harm Russia in any way.
- More informal summits (like Ufa in 2018) where heads of government can interact
- More robust economic ties need to be developed and bilateral trade needs to be improved.
- Continued support for each other in international fora.

India and Russia must ensure that their long-lasting relationship stands the test of time in this current geo-political scenario.

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.
- भारत-चीन संबंध, जो एक ओर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्दों पर व्यापक अभिसरण और दूसरी ओर भू-राजनीतिक प्रतिद्वंद्विता द्वारा चिह्नित होते हैं, इन दोनों के बीच के लिए वर्तमान अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रणाली के लिए भी गंभीर निहितार्थ हैं। (250 words) 15

India-China relationship has seen both highs and lows and continues to remain complex

Areas of convergence

- Climate change and Implementation of Paris Agreements
- Demand for a multipolar world
- Agriculture and developing countries-related issues in WTO
- Both want stability and peace in Afghanistan

Geostrategic rivalry

- border disputes in Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin
- China's alleged 'String of Pearls' around India

- India refused to endorse BRI as it passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.
- India's membership of Quad group
- China's proximity with Pakistan

Both China and India are the fastest growing major economies and represent the next global superpowers. Their ties thus have major implications, both for them as well as international community at large.

Implications for India & China & global world.

- India-China convergence can help in more emphatic discussion on issues like multilateralism, climate change etc.
- By signing finalisation of RCEP, it can lead to increased trade and

prosperity among India-China as well as other, overlaps

- With Indo-Pacific becoming the new economic centre of gravity, a greater role for both countries is envisaged.
- Good ties between India and China can allow neighbourhood countries to seek meaningful assistance from both. (Eg. 2+1 mechanism with Nepal)
- Better ties can help both to reduce border skirmishes and engage with each other more constructively on convergent issues.

India and China must try to sort out their differences and must work together on common issues. Both countries and the world at large stands to benefit from this good ties.

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।

The acronym BRICS stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (its 5 members). Its importance has seen a decline in recent years despite having a promising ~~promising~~ beginning.

Importance of BRICS / opportunities it presents

- It represents 5 major political and economic powers whose interests on various issues are aligned.
- It advocates a multi-polar world instead of a uni-polar vs.
- It allows India and China to take common stand on issues affecting them, keeping their differences aside.
- Helps articulate common economic interests which can be presented

an international forum like WTO.

its limitations / Challenges :-

- India-China's rivalry fragments the group from functioning effectively
- Different strategic and even economic interests of the members
- Lack of a coherent approach with different members pursuing different objectives.
- India, Brazil and South Africa prefer IBSA which they feel allows better articulation of their interests.

BRICS is an important grouping and its members will benefit from their continued cooperation. The issues that are plaguing BRICS need to be sorted out.

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।

The WTO (World Trade Organisation) is getting ~~go~~ questions raised regarding its effectiveness and the slow progress of Doha round agenda is a testimony to this.

Factors behind decreasing relevance of WTO

- Protectionist policies being followed by countries like US that hampers free trade.
- Rise of different multi-lateral trading agreements and groupings like RCEP, TPP etc.
- Lack of consensus among developing and developed countries on major issues like subsidies, IPR etc.
- Lack of teeth in the punitive

measures that WTO employs.
→ Its sluggishness and near-failure
as a effective dispute-settlement
body.

^{continued}
WTO's Relevance:

- It stands for rule-based
multi-lateral trading system which
is as relevant today as in past
- Despite emergence of groupings
like RCEP, TPP; it is still the
largest such group with near-total
membership
- It allows a forum for developing
and developed countries to sort
out their differences while promoting
a less trade-restrictive global order.
- Through its 'one member, one vote'
policy, it allows for consensus
building and provides opportunity

for every member to have a broad
→ It has led to noticeable
reduction in tariff barriers
and trade barriers around the
world.

Reforms to be taken in WTO

- faster implementation of both
found Agenda
- Evolving consensus on agricultural
subsidies and TRIPS issue.
- The Dispute Settlement Body
needs to be made more effective
- The punitive measures against non-
complying nations must be made
more stringent.

The WTO continues to be
relevant today. However, to regain
its lost stature in the world, it
must expeditiously ~~implement~~
underake some long-pending reforms.

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

1998 में भारत-फ्रांस रणनीतिक साझेदारी, अंततः परिपक्व होती प्रतीत हो रही है।
दिये गयी प्रतिक्रिया।

India and France share a traditionally close ties. France was the first country with which India signed a Strategic Partnership in 1998.

Areas of cooperation/Reason behind strong ties

① Defence

- joint military exercises
- France provides India with equipment like Rafale, Scorpene submarine etc.

② Economic

- France is 9th largest foreign investor in India.
- India enjoys a trade surplus with France.

③ International Support

- France supported us after 1998 nuclear tests.
- It publicly opposed US sanctions on India
- It supports India's bid for NSC and UNSC permanent membership.

④ Energy

- International Solar Alliance launched by both

⑤ Nuclear

- Provides fuel for India's reactors
- Has signed an MOU to build 6 nuclear reactors in India.

⑥ Space

- Helped launch of many Indian Satellites
- Provided us with cryogenic engine technology.

France and India continue to enjoy excellent ties. France intends to serve as a nodal point for India's interactions with European Union. The ties are further bolstered by bilateral visits at levels of Heads of State and convergence of agenda at international fora.

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 उतर रहे हैं। दिल्ली घोषणापत्र के माध्यम से दोनों पक्षों द्वारा हाल ही में मनाये गए संबंधों के स्मरणोत्सव के संदर्भ में आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

India and ASEAN began formal relationship in 1992 when India was accorded the status of a Dialogue Partner. The relationship evolved to Strategic Partnership and then to Free Trade Agreement in goods and services.

Recently ^{25 years of} both sides commemorated the formal establishment of relations and released the Delhi Declaration which envisages further cooperation and fast-tracking of negotiations on RCEP. However, India-ASEAN relations have yet ^{to} reach its potential and certain unresolved issues remain.

Factors that prevent full-blooming
of India-ASEAN relations

- ① RCEP still in negotiations → though it was taken up for discussion way back.
- ② Despite signing FTA, bilateral trade hasn't grown proportionately.
- ③ China factor → many members China has a de facto veto over any matter that affects its concerns.
- ④ Diverging interests and policies of ASEAN members like Indonesia and Vietnam.
- ⑤ Difference in expertise → ASEAN specialises in manufacturing while India does in services.
- ⑥ People-to-people contact, hasn't been utilized fully. ^{potential}

Steps to be taken:-

- ① Foster negotiations and finalisation of RCEP.
- ② Sharing of ~~the~~ mutual expertise in good manufacturing and services.
- ③ India's concerns regarding China's dominance in ASEAN must be addressed.
- ④ People-to-people contact must be encouraged and bilateral visits between state heads of states must increase.

ASEAN - India ties are essential for ensuring security and stability in the Indian Ocean region. ~~and~~ Their robust ties will bring prosperity to them and to all others in the Indo-Pacific.

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 की समर्थन के स्थान पर भारत के विस्तृत हितों पर आधारित होनी चाहिए। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The Indo-Pacific is a geo-political construct that comprises the region between Indian Ocean, Western Pacific and includes contiguous seas off the coast of China.

In recent times, there has been an increasing international recognition of India's centrality in Indo-Pacific region:-

- ① US Renamed its Pacific Command as Indo-Pacific Command and highlighted India's central role in security of the region.
- ② Japan and Australia, in their statements, have underlined India's importance in the region.

③ ASEAN and other island countries view India as a net security provider in the region.

However, more than international recognition, it is India's own interests in the region that make it important for India to engage constructively with it :-

- ① To curb China's growing influence and to counter the string of Pearl's.
- ② To protect important sea lanes of communication and trade routes through which India's oil imports come
- ③ To tackle non-traditional security challenges like piracy, maritime terrorism etc.
- ④ To forge and improve relationships with liberal states like Maldives and groupings like

ASEAN.

⑤ To establish and maintain naval bases at strategic locations to protect its interests.

India has high stakes in the Indo-Pacific region and it is a natural leader and security provider in the region. The international recognition thus underlines this fact.

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 is a crucial pillar of India's foreign policy and largely shapes our relations with other countries.

Role of Diaspora in India's foreign policy

- ① Can exert pressure on the country's government to (where they reside) to avoid any anti-India measure
- ② Remittances and aid from diaspora can help in India's economic development
- ③ Help in providing relief during humanitarian and natural crises like earthquakes (eg. UAE's help in recent Kerala floods)

④ Can help shaping policies of the host country in a way for increased convergence with India's interests.

⑤ In some countries, Indian diaspora forms a significant part of the population (e.g. Maldives - 8%). This it generates a pro-India feeling and helps in maintaining good relations between the countries.

The diaspora is an important tool for furthering India's foreign policy goals and interests. India must take efforts to deal with its diaspora more constructively.

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 भातृत्वपूर्ण मित्रता में से एक कहा जाता है। बीते कुछ वर्षों में इस संबंध में प्रमुख उपलब्धियां क्या रही हैं? साथ ही, इस संबंधों को आगे और सुदृढ़ बनाने हेतु कुछ उपायों की पहचान कीजिए।

India and Bangladesh share close historical and cultural ties. India played an important role in the liberation of and formation of Bangladesh in 1971.

After a slight dip in relations, India-Bangladesh ties have seen a rejuvenation in the past decade.

Key Achievements in last past years

- ① 2015 Land Sharing agreement which led to mutual sharing of enclaves for better boundary demarcation.
- ② Membership of common fora like SAARC, BIMSTEC etc.
- ③ Signing of BBIN transport agreement.

- ④ Development aid to Bangladesh provided by India.
- ⑤ Bangladesh's support to anti-insurgent movements in North-East India.

Steps to further consolidate relations:-

- ① Fast settlement of the Teesta River dispute.
- ② Increased meets and contacts both at government and people-to-people level.
- ③ Bangladesh must allentiate India's concern regarding terrorist groups that are getting a stronghold in the region.
- ④ Improved connectivity through effective implementation of BBIN transport network.

Having good ties with Bangladesh
can help India in securing its
North-East states as well as to
emerge as a reliable regional
partner.