



# VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

VISION IAS  
13 AUG 2023 NO  
03  
RECEIVED

## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2082)

Name of Candidate	NIKITA YERMA		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	1344988
Center	OLD RAJINDER NAGAR	Date	28.07.2023

### 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 **HINDI & ENGLISH** इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी 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।

16-B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar  
Delhi- 110009

## 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.

VisionIAS

1. सौर ऊर्जा की पूर्ण क्षमता का दोहन करने में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समुदाय की मदद करने के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सौर गठबंधन (ISA) द्वारा निभाई जा सकने वाली भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

Discuss the role that the International Solar Alliance (ISA) can play in helping the international community realise the full potential of solar energy. (Answer in 150 words) 10

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched in 2015 on sidelines of UNFCCC by India & France.

Aim ⇒ connect over 120+ countries lying between the Tropic of Cancer & Capricorn through solar power grid.

\*Role of ISA in International Relations:-

(i) Achieve Paris commitment of not increasing global average temperature beyond 1.5°C by 2100.

(ii) De-carbonise world economy By switching to cleaner technology world is moving towards a carbon free environment.

(iii) One sun, one world, one Grid  
(OSOWOG)  
The global initiative led by  
India & UK aims at ensuring  
global collaboration around  
world.

(iv) India's global endeavours.  
ISA is seen as India's signature  
policy initiative in global  
arena.

Challenges with solar energy

- Costly installation = requires heavy finances
- Weather dependent
- Relatively costly.

'Solar Energy' initiatives around  
the world are the need of  
the hour. By systematically  
addressing the challenges -  
funds & technology transfer -  
it can be seen as the future  
energy.

2. प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस नई संभावनाओं को फिर से जोड़ने और पुनः परिकल्पना करने का क्षण है तथा यह परिवर्तन लाने, नए संबंधों की खोज करने एवं नवीन विचारों को विकसित करने का एक नेटवर्क है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

The Pravasi Bhartiya Divas is a moment to reconnect and re-imagine new possibilities and a network to drive change, discover new ties and develop new ideas. Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Pravasi Bhartiya Divas is celebrated on 9 January to ~~celebrate~~ <sup>mark</sup> the contribution made by the overseas citizens to India's development.

Indian diaspora is spread across the world from Latin America, America, Europe, Caribbean islands, to Middle East & even East Asia.

Connect with diaspora is often seen as "UNOFFICIAL DIPLOMATS" of India.

Reconnecting & Reimagining new ties:-

Every year, govt rewards "Pravasi Bhardiye" for their remarkable contribution in spreading Indian culture.

P2P connect  
 Diaspora → Track II diplomacy.  
 helps in spreading  
 Indian culture, tradition, language,  
 food to rest of world

(eg) samosa caucus in USA  
 Popularising 'Kurta-Jeans'

### Contribution

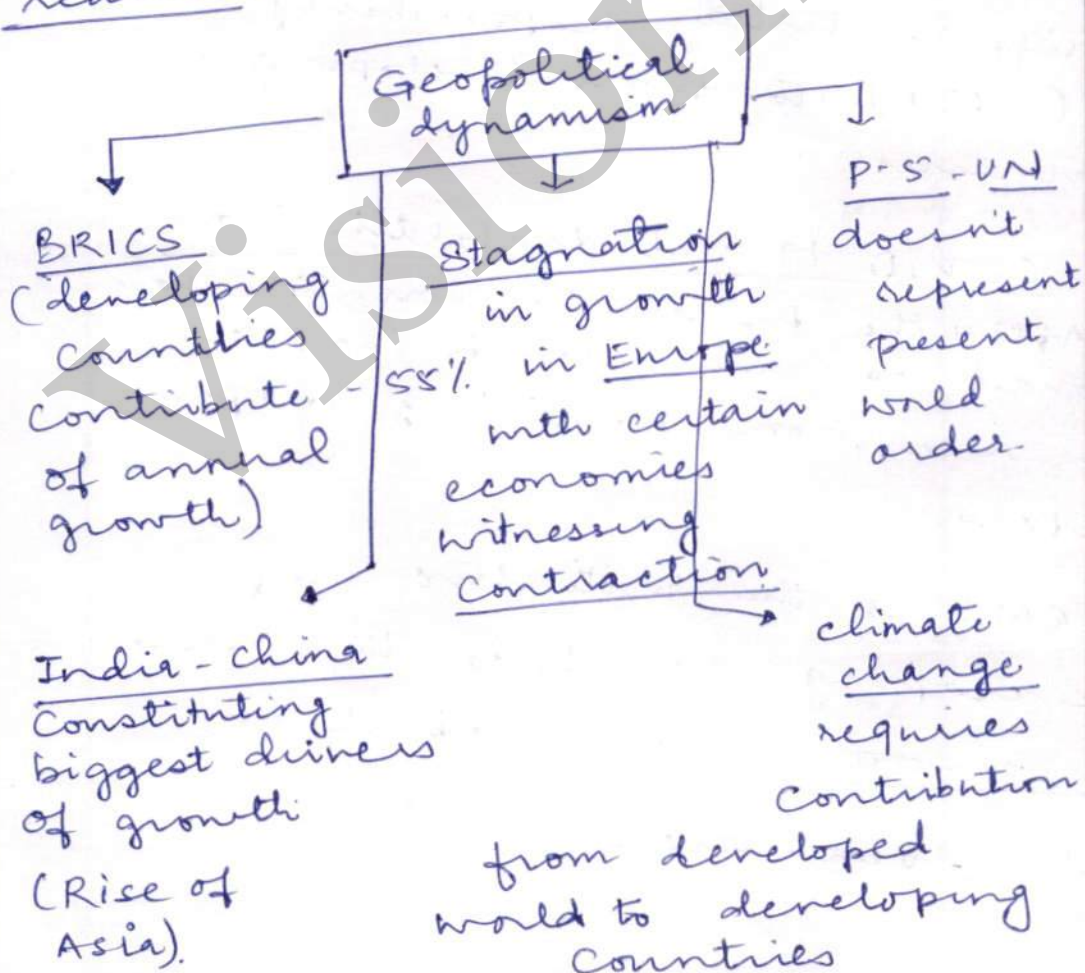
1. New Age technology → Leading CEO of Google, Microsoft.
2. Healthcare technology → presenting medical tourism
3. Soft power → Indian icons & bollywood.
4. Nation building → through reaching great heights like American Vice-President, UK Prime Minister etc.

Today, the OCI and NRI have transformed India's global image. They have helped in unleashing India's potential. Pravasi diwas celebrates their contribution.

3. वर्तमान भू-राजनीतिक वास्तविकताओं को प्रतिबिंबित करने हेतु 'न्यू ओरिएंटेशन फॉर ए रिफॉर्मड मल्टीलेटरल सिस्टम (NORMS)' के लिए भारत के हालिया प्रयास के पीछे निहित तर्क पर चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

Discuss the rationale behind India's recent pitch for 'New Orientation for a Reformed Multilateral System (NORMS)' to reflect the present day geo-political realities. (Answer in 150 words) 10

India and the global south have time and again emphasised on the need to transform international & multilateral organisations in wake of changed geopolitical realities



NORMS - is a reflection of changed geopolitics and aims :-

- ① Reform UNSC - to include rising & significant powers like India
- ② Reform World Bank & IMF -  
Given voting pattern is singularly concentrated among European member countries.
- ③ climate change - Common But differentiated Responsibility (CBDR) to fund developing countries
- ④ COVID 19 and deglobalisation  
After the pandemic countries have moved towards closed borders and are now unwilling to open borders.

NORMS is the initiative of developing countries to ensure responsive, accountability in the global arena.

4. ग्लोबल साउथ द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली नवीन और आगामी चुनौतियों के आलोक में, ग्लोबल साउथ की आवाज को मजबूती देने में भारत द्वारा निभाई जा सकने वाली भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

In light of the new and upcoming challenges faced by the Global South, discuss the role that India can play in empowering the voice of the Global South. (Answer in 150 words)

Global South constitutes countries of Asia, s. America and Africa. Former colonies & now developing they constitute  $\frac{2}{3}$  of global population but have access to less than 30% global resources.

Challenges faced by Global South:-

(1) Political

- ↳ under-representation at forums like UNSC, WTO etc
- ↳ victim of great power politics
- ↳ (eg) Afghanistan. (USA role)

(2) Economic

- ↳ Poverty, low income countries
- ↳ absence of access to resources
- ↳ exploitation = Mining (eg) DRC for Cobalt.

(3) Social

- ↳ Low education, health & social welfare indicators
- ↳ Political instability marked by absence of social security

(4) Environmental

- ↳ worst sufferers of climate change
- ↳ (eg) small Island states, locations of Industries

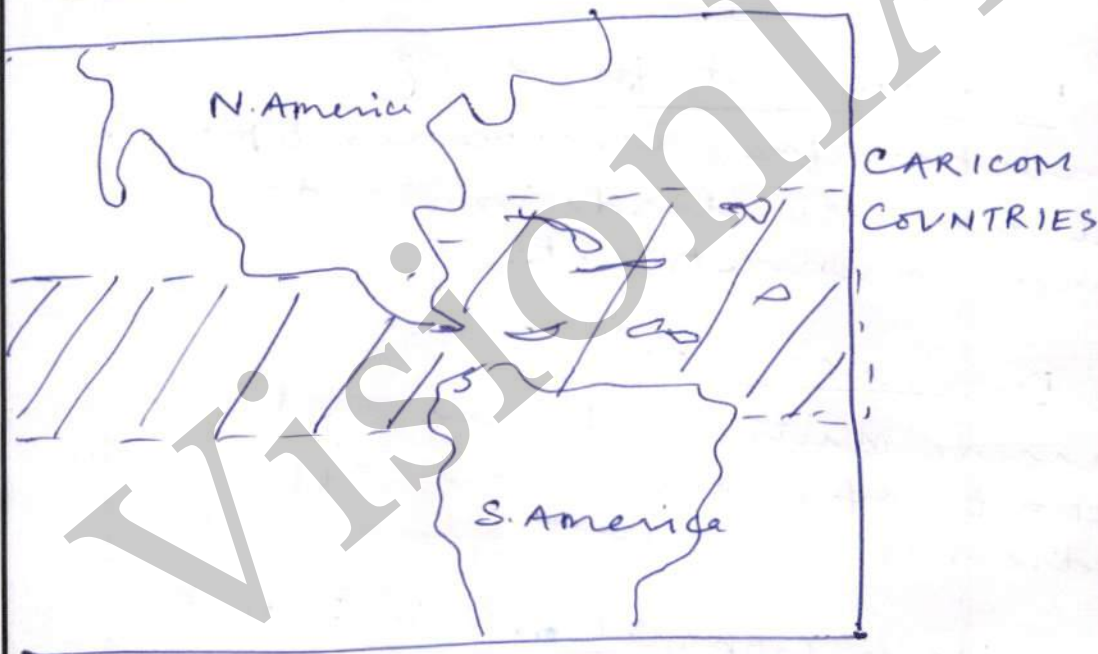
India:- Leader of Global South

- (1) G20 - India's presidency has time and again emphasised on "Vasudev Kutumbkam"
  - (2) Pitching for full time membership of African union at G20
  - (3) Line of credits extended to India's neighbours as part of SAGAR and Neighbourhood first policy
  - (4) Reform of United Nation SC - with India as a permanent member.
  - (5) Leadership in WTO - for extending subsidies to small fishermen
  - (6) Pressing developed countries to transfer funds & technology to developing countries for smart technology
- 'India' through policy initiatives like Look West, Act East, SAGAR, Vasudev Kutumbkam aims at emerging as a leader of Global South.

5. भारत और CARICOM सदस्य देशों के बीच सहयोग के संभावित क्षेत्रों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उन विभिन्न उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए जो हाल के दिनों में कैरेबियाई देशों के साथ भारत के संबंधों को मजबूत करने के लिए किए गए हैं। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

Highlighting the potential areas of cooperation between India and CARICOM member states, discuss the various measures that have been taken in recent times to strengthen India's relationship with the Caribbean countries. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)  
is a group of 20 countries in  
Caribbean forming single  
political & economic entity.



Potential Areas of Collaboration:-

(i) Health & Pharma sector.

India with its strong pharma sector can provide affordable healthcare & tourism.

(ii) Culture & Education - Both have strong cultural heritage & can promote joint research

(iii) IT / ICT Capacity - They can collaborate in area of e-commerce, cyber security etc.

(iv) Climate change - collaboration to mitigate impact of climate change

Measures taken in this regard:-

(i) Development funding

Assistance for development projects and promote trade in goods, services & Investments.

(ii) Pharmaceuticals

Vaccine maitri initiative and export of affordable-efficient medicines

(iii) Trade & Cooperation - in Iron & Steel, machinery etc

(iv) Tourism promotion - Boost to establish Ayush, Yoga & wellness sector.

India - CARICOM collaboration represents S-S collaboration.

6. भारत को प्राप्त शंघाई सहयोग संगठन (SCO) की अध्यक्षता न केवल इसे मध्य एशियाई देशों के साथ अपने संबंधों को मजबूत करने का अवसर प्रदान करती है बल्कि इसके आर्थिक और सुरक्षा हितों को भी बढ़ावा देती है। विवेचना कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

India's presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) not only provides it with an opportunity to deepen its relations with the Central Asian nations but also promote its economic and security interests. Discuss.  
(Answer in 150 words) 10

SCO is an international organization comprising China, Pakistan, Russia and Central Asian countries like Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan etc.

★ Importance of SCO for India:-

(1) Engage Central Asia

↳ economically, important reserve of critical minerals like lithium etc

↳ strategic - connect with W. Asia and keep check on terrorism in Afghanistan.

(2) Advocating 'No terrorism' - RATS  
Allowing talks with Pakistan and at same time not to allow foreign soil being used as a forum for terrorism

(iii) Economic engagement - 3C initiative - Cooperation, connectivity and capacity as new pillars for security, energy defense sectors

(iv) Multipolarity - By engaging with Russia & China India aims for multiple engagements in multipolar world order.

(v) Connectivity with connectivity gaining prime importance - eg Chahabar port with Iran, INSTC can transform free trade in region.

India SCO Presidency was marked with 'SECURE' proposal.

Further brought two newer engagements :-

- (1) Buddhist circuit connect
- (2) Traditional Medicine, AYUSH

during 2023 - SCO Presidency.

7. यू.एन. पीसकीपिंग संबंधी प्रयासों में भारत के योगदान का वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही, यू.एन. पीसकीपिंग फोर्सों द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों को भी रेखांकित कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

Bring out India's contributions towards the UN peacekeeping efforts. Also, highlight the challenges faced by the UN peacekeeping forces. (Answer in 150 words) 10

India has contributed one of the largest troops to the UN Peacekeeping efforts.

UN Peacekeeping involves stationing of forces at disputed sites to maintain peace.

India's contributions to keeping:-

- ① Largest troop deployment with over 2,50,000 Indians have served in peacekeeping
- ② All women contingent sent to Liberia in 2007, Further, all women contingent sent to S. Sudan (Darfur region).
- ③ chain of 3 international commissions for supervision & control of IndoAsia missions

#### ④ Practice of Yoga to UN Missions

Peacekeepers have taken the practice of yoga to peacekeeping mission

⑤ UN Medals of Honours - have been received by for its dedication & service in peacekeeping

challenges  
to  
peacekeeping

#### ① Safety of peace keepers :-

Growing instances of crimes against peacekeepers

#### ② Organisational challenges :-

Lack of coordination from host nation, no cooperation from local troops, police

#### ③ Operational challenges

Need for advanced, newer and upto date technology

④ Redundant Missions - Missions without exit strategy - draining UN resources of UN mission to DRC

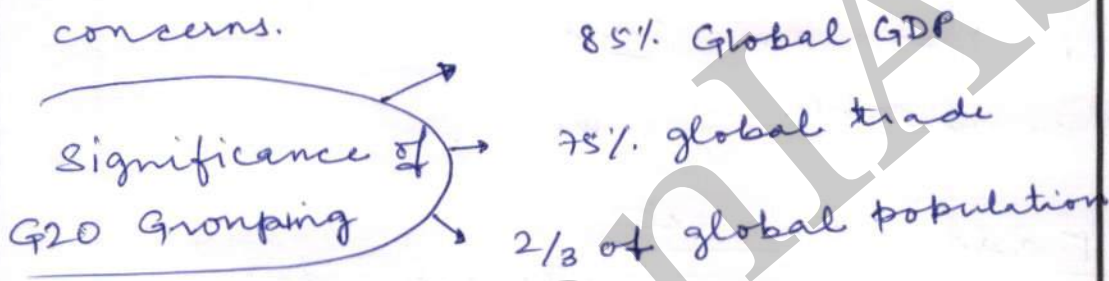
#### Way forward

Prudent deployment of peacekeeping missions & establishing trust & coordination is the way forward

8. दक्षिण एशिया से एकमात्र G20 सदस्य के रूप में, भारत के लिए G20 का नेतृत्व वैश्विक स्तर पर दक्षिण एशिया की आवाज को बुलंद करने के लिए एक प्रभावी मंच के तौर पर इस समूह का उपयोग करने हेतु एक आदर्श अवसर है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

As the only G20 member from South Asia, the G20 leadership is an ideal opportunity for India to use it as an effective platform to amplify South Asia's voice at the global stage. Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10

India assumed the G20 presidency in 2023. Given, its strategic significance, India can leverage the presidentship for raising S.Asian concerns.



### Role of India in South-leadership

#### (i) Political Engagements

The 20 countries will engage in various policy related formulations in a bid to move for greater development

#### (ii) fair negotiations & governance

Global architecture reimagining on trade, finance, global governance etc

(iii) Highlight limits to Non inclusive growth - given the current unequal relations between developed & developing world

(iv) climate change - induced disasters involve the recent floods in Pakistan, heat waves in India. During presidency, India can bid for an early transition to renewable energy.

(v) Trade & Commerce

with maritime trade expanding rapidly, South Asia has emerged as an important pillar in Indo Pacific trade

Being only S. Asian country and as a leader of developing world, India's presidency is

marked by "Collective voice of Global South", "North-south cooperation underlying the spirit of Vasudev Kutumbkam (One Earth, One family, One future)

9. नाभिकीय सुरक्षा के क्षेत्र में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय परमाणु ऊर्जा एजेंसी (IAEA) द्वारा निभाई जाने वाली भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)  
Discuss the role played by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the field of nuclear safety. (Answer in 150 words) 10

The IAEA was created with the intent of ensuring a safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear science and technology. It is organisation under VN.

### Role of IAEA



IAEA also upholds the NPT.  
Thus all member countries make  
nuclear material held by them  
subject to safeguards under IAEA

Drawbacks in  
working of  
IAEA

① 4 states are not  
a party  
to  
NPT.  
India  
Pakistan  
N. Korea  
Israel

② Inability to detect secret facilities  
and can't make installations  
at any time without prior notice.

③ Consent of Member states  
required for inspection by IAEA

④ No enforcement power  
limited authority and has no  
means of physically preventing  
safeguards

IAEA has to rapidly expand in  
terms of its budget & through  
adequate reforms as per the  
need of hour.

10. भारत-यू.ए.ई. CEPA दोनों देशों के बीच आर्थिक संबंधों को मजबूत करने के लिए एक उत्प्रेरक के रूप में कार्य करेगा तथा भारत को इस क्षेत्र में व्यापक पहुंच प्रदान करेगा। विवेचना कीजिए।

The India-UAE CEPA will serve as a catalyst to bolster economic ties between the two countries and give India greater access to the region.  
Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

UAE is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest export destination & 2<sup>nd</sup> largest import country for India.

Given its economic significance India recently signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with UAE.

Significance → Increase bilateral non oil trade to US \$ 100 billion in next 5 years

### Economic significance of CEPA

① Trade in goods - benefit from preferential market access covering 99% of exports to UAE.

② Service trade - Wide coverage ranging from business services, communication services, construction, educational services etc.

③ Employment generation

CEPA is expected to generate 1 million jobs in jewelry, textile, leather, footwear, furniture etc.

④ Access to Middle East

It will provide access to markets in region like S Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman etc.

⑤ FDI - inflows will boost

⑥ Remittance - UAE emerged as the single largest source of Remittance in 2022.

⑦ Education - with exchanges driven by top institutes - like IITs to be set up in UAE.

⑧ Other engagements include environmental cooperation, international affairs, defense, security etc.

CEPA has laid the foundation of a strong Indo-UAE Partnership in future.

11. कुछ चुनौतियों के बावजूद, भारत और बांग्लादेश के बीच आपसी समझ ने दोनों देशों के 'गोल्डन चैप्टर (सुनहरे अध्याय)' को जारी रखा है। विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

Despite certain challenges, the mutual understanding between India and Bangladesh has allowed the 'Golden Chapter' of the two countries to continue. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

India - Bangladesh cooperation has strengthened over time - to emerge as strong neighbourly relations.

### Recent Exchanges

- ① Exchanging conclaves
- ② River cooperation - R. Koshiyara
- ③ settlement of Maritime boundary disputes
- ④ Invited country to G20 summit

Strengthened Cooperation between them:

### ① Economic cooperation

1. Bangladesh - the biggest trading partner in S. Asia
2. Biggest development partner of India today - extending 3 lines of credits in last 8 years.
3. FDI hovering to \$500 million+

## II Security Cooperation

- ① Both countries have continued on close security cooperation over
  - a) counter terrorism
  - b) border crimes
  - c) border management
- ② Combating secessionism in North East India & denying safe havens
- ③ Deal in insurgency - in terms of intelligence & security sharing

## III connectivity

→ driven by the need to build resilient supply chains between two countries across region via rail, road, inland waterways

## IV Capacity Building

SAARC satellite & National Knowledge Network to boost digital capacity

## V Cultural ties

strengthened through celebration of Bangladesh liberation Day

However, certain challenges remain including :-

- (i) River Dispute  
over sharing 54 transboundary rivers with Bangladesh, Teesta river sharing etc.
- (ii) Illegal Immigrants - via porous borders fuelling tensions in Assam, & other N-E states
- (iii) Rohingyas - Bangladesh is keen on bringing India's engagement on issues
- (iv) China's intervention - China's presence in Bangladesh has increased tremendously, which is worrisome for India.
- (v) Radicalisation - presence of groups like Jamaat e Islami, Hizbul forces etc

Yet despite challenges, India-Bangladesh relations seems flourishing at present. - and have thus, being termed as 'Golden chapter' in bilateral relationships.

12. यद्यपि भारत-यू.के. के भविष्य के संबंधों के लिए 2030 के रोडमैप का उद्देश्य दोनों देशों के बीच संबंधों को पुनर्जीवित करना है, तथापि कुछ ऐसी प्रमुख चुनौतियां विद्यमान हैं जिनका समाधान करने की आवश्यकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

While the 2030 Roadmap for India-UK future relations seeks to revitalise the relationship between the two countries, there are major challenges that need to be ironed out. Analyse. (Answer in 250 words) 15

The 2030 Roadmap for India UK future relations is a joint framework for future relations based on common vision of new & transformational comprehensive strategic partnership

### 5 Pillars of UK-India relationship

#### (1) Connecting 2 countries & its people?

By upgrading institutional mechanism we can achieve cooperation in :-

- ↳ education
- ↳ research & innovation
- ↳ employment & culture

#### (2) Trade & prosperity

- ↳ at present bilateral trade is low
- ↳ at less than \$50 billion
- ↳ aim : rapidly expand trade

(3) Defence & security

↳ strategic partnership to tackle  
cyber attacks & espionage  
space crime  
terrorist threats etc.

(4) climate

↳ commitment to build a more  
environmentally sustainable  
future & achieve Paris Agreement  
goals

(5) Health

↳ address new emerging threats  
& challenges and ensure  
saving lives & improve health  
& well being

Challenges in India-UK Relationship:-(1) Political Instability in UK

Frequent changes in PM, has  
put UK in crisis post Brexit  
and COVID.

(2) long standing - negotiation on FTA

Over 2 years of negotiations, has  
not achieved breakthrough in the relation

(3) Trade Irritants - Continuous imposition of tariffs between UK and India has posed challenges

(4) Diaspora & Khalistani issue  
India has time and again pointed that foreign soil should not be used for Anti India propoganda.

(5) Extradition of fugitive offenders  
UK has emerged as a safe haven for fugitive offenders due to relaxed VISA policy.

(6) Differing views on Kashmir

UK has not given any unsubstantiated report on Kashmir.

Thus, differences exist. Given India is keen to carve out a role for itself in evolving global order as a leading power and UK is looking for newer engagements this is the moment for India - UK ties.

13. पश्चिम एशिया में चीन का बढ़ता प्रभाव यू.एस. के प्रभुत्व के अंत और एक नई बहु-ध्रुवीय व्यवस्था की शुरुआत का संकेत प्रदान करता है। समालोचनात्मक विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

The growing influence of China in West Asia signals the end of the US hegemony and the dawn of a new multi-polar order. Critically discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Political scientists are of the view that post 2008 Global financial crisis - we have witnessed a steady decline in US hegemony and a rapid rise of China.

China has increased its footprints rapidly across its neighbourhood as:-

- (i) West Asia & SCO
- (ii) preponderance in East China Sea.
- (iii) Belt & Road Initiative (BRI)
- (iv) Reviving land & sea based silk route.

\* China's influence in West Asia :-(1) Energy.

oil is a significant component of West Asia's strategic design.

China (a major importer) imports 40% of energy requirements from Gulf countries

(2) Defence & strategic affairs

① S-Arabia - China cooperation to develop own ballistic missiles

② UAE procured F35 fighter jets from USA despite significant Chinese presence

③ China - Israel collaboration in high-tech, innovation and defence technology

(3) Trade

China's exports to Gulf region grows at 11.7% annually in last one decade.

China also has a FTA with Gulf region

(4) Economic diversification

GCC countries have started diversifying their economies to reduce dependence on oil. Further, W. Asia is home to large autocratic nations.

US Engagement in the region :-① Armed forces deployed →

US armed forces are present across region - military personnel located in several region

② Defense supplies

US continues to remain the major security partner of most Arab states and principal arms supplier.

Amid US-China rivalry, there are other players like India, Russia & European countries like France who are also increasing their presence in the Gulf.

14. भारत अपने दक्षिण एशियाई पड़ोसी देशों के साथ अपने दृष्टिकोण में अब 'केवल द्विपक्षवाद' के लिए प्रतिबद्ध नहीं है। विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, इस क्षेत्र में प्रभावी सहयोग से संबंधित चुनौतियों को भी रेखांकित कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

India is no longer wedded to 'bilateralism only' in its approach with its South Asian neighbours. Discuss. Also, highlight the challenges pertaining to effective cooperation in the region. (Answer in 250 words) 15

India had a bilateral approach to its neighbours in S. Asia - engaging in one-to-one conversations & engagements.

Of late, India has now diversified its relationship via :-

- (i) Regional forums
- (ii) Track II diplomacy - P2P
- (iii) Informal summits

Emerging Multilateral Approach:-

- ① SAARC - South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation provides a platform <sup>for India to engage</sup> to rival countries like Pakistan on critical issues like COVID 19

- ② BIMSTEC - seen as grouping of Indian neighbourhood excluding Pakistan. Cooperation extends to:-
- (i) Conclave of ports
  - (ii) Startup conclave
  - (iii) Master plan for transport connectivity
- ③ Indian Ocean Rim Association to engage & collaborate with countries bordering Indian Ocean
- ④ SAGAR - launched by India for maritime security in Indian Ocean region
- ⑤ Project Mausam and Project Sagar launched to assist littoral states during Pandemic
- ⑥ Setting up Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal corridor (BBIN) to formulate a motor vehicle agreement

challenges to  
regional  
cooperation

① Political differences  
& conflicts :-

- a) division by Indo PAK relations
- b) Bangladesh Myanmar relations
- c) India Nepal border dispute

② Economic imbalances :-  
crises & debt post COVID 19  
of Sri Lanka & Pakistan

③ weak institutional mechanisms

In case South Asian FTA  
with marginal growth

④ Deeply dis-integrated

S. Asia being least integrated  
due to signing of BBIN-  
MVA in 2015

Although, over the last decade,  
India has made significant  
progress in connecting with its  
neighbours. India's neighbourhood  
policy is a work in progress  
Given the security challenges

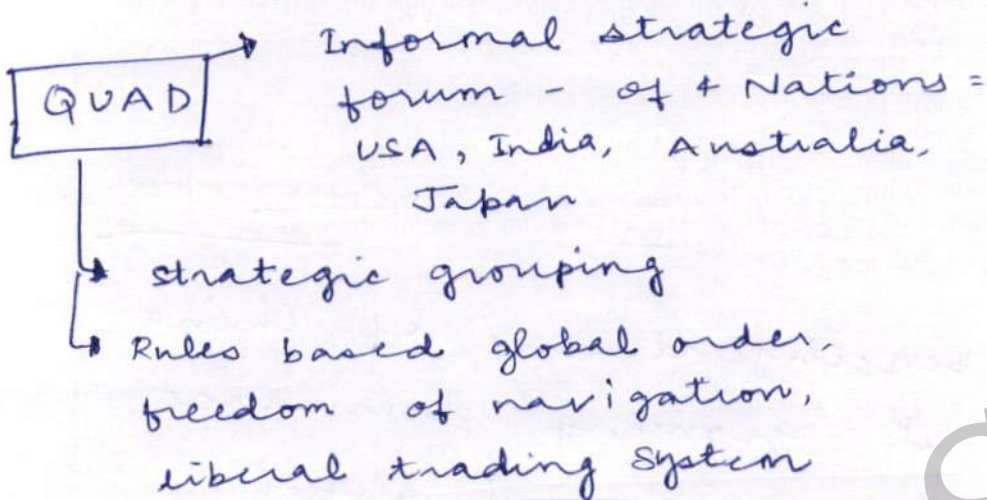
15. ऑस्ट्रेलिया-जापान-यू.एस. त्रिपक्षीय समूह के मजबूत होने सहित संपूर्ण इंडो-पैसिफिक क्षेत्र में किए जा रहे सुरक्षा सहयोग संबंधी नवीन प्रयासों के आलोक में, वर्तमान भू-राजनीतिक परिदृश्य में क्वाड (QUAD) की प्रासंगिकता पर चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

In light of the new security cooperation efforts springing up across the Indo-Pacific, including strengthening of the Australia-Japan-U.S. trilateral, discuss the relevance of the QUAD in the present geopolitical climate. (Answer in 250 words) 15

The belligerent rise of China and its growing dominance has forced several global players like India, US, Japan, Australia to come together to balance Chinese aggression.

Indo Pacific is growing popular term referring to vast spans of Oceans of Indian Ocean & Pacific ocean significant for :-

- (1) trade route - 90% global trade
- (2) Critical Minerals
- (3) Sea Lanes of open Communication (SLOC)
- (4) Strategic posts.



Significance of QUAD in doubt as :-

(i) New security cooperation :-

given coming up with bilateral & other security agreements :-

\* Japan & UK - defence agreement

\* Japan - US - 2+2 meeting

\* AUKUS - between Australia, US, UK to develop nuclear powered submarine.

(ii) Indian engagements. signing military logistics & reciprocal agreement with

- 1) Australia
- 2) Japan
- 3) US
- 4) S. Korea.
- 5) Singapore
- 6) France

Australia - Japan - US trilateral :-

1) Consistent cooperation :-  
between three - given both enjoy  
NATO member like status.

2) QUAD - dealt itself out of  
defence ministers but they have  
shown greater interoperability

3) Pacific security doesn't  
represent strong overlapping  
interest for QUAD because India  
is far removed from Pacific  
Island nations

Despite challenges, QUAD remains  
significant as :-

1. Chinese challenge is persistent.
2. QUAD's ambitions and visibility  
have increased over past  
few years

3. American Indo Pacific policy  
categorically envisions a strong  
& reliable QUAD

Growing significance of QUAD, has  
been growing due to Chinese  
aggression.

16. भारत को "पड़ोस प्रथम" नीति को मजबूती प्रदान करने के लिए नेपाल के साथ एक संवेदनशील और उदार भागीदार बनने की आवश्यकता है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत-नेपाल संबंधों में हालिया बाधाओं का उल्लेख कीजिए और आगे की राह सुझाइए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

India needs to be a sensitive and generous partner to Nepal for the "Neighbourhood First" policy to take root. In this context, mention the recent roadblocks in the Indo-Nepal relationship and suggest a way forward. (Answer in 250 words) 15

India's flagship foreign policy initiative "Neighbourhood first"

policy aims at developing synergetic relations with its smaller south Asian neighbours in field of :-

- science & technology
- energy cooperation
- economy
- trade & commerce
- education & research etc

Similar treatment was meted out to Himalayan neighbours - Nepal via :-

1. Nepal trade treaty - 2009
2. Hydroelectric project development
3. Vaccine Maitri

Yet, roadblocks in Indo Nepal relations exist:-

(i) Big brother attitude

Nepal perceives India with big brother attitude given unrevised Indo Nepal Treaty of Peace & Friendship.

(ii) Kalapani issue

Border dispute exist on the modern created issue with Nepal expanding its territorial claims

(iii) 2015 economic blockade. hindered trade supply and has forced Nepal to develop alternate partnerships (China)

(iv) Role of Chinese (BRI).

China has rapidly expanded its foothold through projects like Trans Himalayan Railway Project.

(v) Water conflict

Agreements over rivers like Kosi have faced conflict given large scale flooding caused by it

India's steps to revitalise and develop the relationship :-

(i) Historical - cultural ties :-

India-Nepal can rebuild relations as:

- ↳ common ancestry
- ↳ Roti Beti relation
- ↳ Buddhist connect
- ↳ Hinduism connect.

② Revision of Treaty of friendship

(1950) in order to reflect changes  
& New realities

③ Resolving border issues (Kalapani)

via formal & friendly bilateral  
talks, discussions, negotiations.

④ Potential development of  
hydropower generation via  
integrated water management  
system.

⑤ Counter Chinese influence by  
delivering projects in just, fair  
& time bound manner.

Nepalese relationship should be  
rooted in the greater geopolitical  
realities of the day to  
display sensitivities & avoiding  
rhetoric.

17. भारतीय डायस्पोरा भारत के आर्थिक हितों का लाभ उठाने और इसकी विदेश नीति को आकार देने में एक निर्णायक भूमिका निभाते हैं। इस संदर्भ में, भारतीय डायस्पोरा द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली प्रमुख चुनौतियों और उनके साथ जुड़ाव को बढ़ाने के लिए भारत द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों की विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

The Indian diaspora plays a decisive role in leveraging India's economic interests and shaping its foreign policy. In this context, discuss the major challenges faced by the Indian diaspora and steps taken by India to enhance engagement with them. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Indian diaspora involves both the NRI and PIO. India has one of the largest diaspora in the world.

unofficial diplomats help spread Indian culture, language, tradition.

Role of diaspora.

- help attract FDI
- Contributor of Remittances
- significant for person-to-person diplomacy
- Increase India's stature at global level
- Spirit celebrated via Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas every year (9 Jan)

Challenges faced by diaspora :-① Conflicts & Political Instability

Global events → Russia - Ukraine,  
Shia - Sunni conflicts, unrest in  
Sudan, Ethiopia causes rescue  
operations.

② Discrimination

Rising xenophobia, colour based  
discrimination. (eg) Sikhs in USA.

③ Pandemic & future health crisis

Growing global epidemics huts  
business environment & growth.

④ Protectionism and strict laws  
is a cause of great concern

(eg) Restrictions on H-1B visa.

⑤ Indian Migrant crisis

Exploitative system prevalent in  
Gulf countries eg Kafala system

⑥ Dual citizenship

Indians wish to retain their  
citizenship but aren't able to  
do so.

Steps taken by India to engage diaspora

- ① Merge of Ministry of Overseas Affairs & MEA - to integrate & bring holistic approach.
- ② Rehabilitation - schemes like SWADES for citizens returning under Vande Bharat Mission
- ③ Protecting Migrants - MoU have been signed with Gulf countries to enhance bilateral cooperation & employment opportunities
- ④ Cultural Engagement - started by govt to increase communication via programmes like Bharat ko Janiye
- ⑤ Outreach programme  
state outreach programmes include Videsh Sampark programme to increase in depth dialogue.

Indian govt. can leverage the economic, social, cultural engagement with diaspora further.

18. चूंकि भारत अपने पड़ोस की पुनः कल्पना कर रहा है, इसलिए उप-क्षेत्रों के माध्यम से सीमा-पार कनेक्टिविटी तेजी से महत्वपूर्ण होती जा रही है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)  
As India re-imagines its neighbourhood, cross-border connectivity through sub-regions is becoming increasingly vital. Analyse. (Answer in 250 words) 15

India aims at increasing its sub regional connectivity among S. Asian neighbours.

Sub regional connectivity projects

⇒

Road, Waterway  
Railway  
connectivity

Initiatives undertaken

- ① BBIN - Bangladesh Bhutan India Nepal sub regional Motor Vehicle Agreement in 2015 bringing together Bay of Bengal & Himalayan subregions
- ② Bangladesh waterways agreement ⇒ to jointly develop waterways of Ganges & Brahmaputra
- ③ India - Myanmar - Thailand trilateral highway
- ④ Kaladan Multimodal project

⑤ Chabahar agreement between India, Iran, Afghanistan.

\* Importance of sub regional connectivity:

- ① Boost trade & commerce by enhancing flow of goods, people & ideas.
- ② Address poverty - by generating employment and promoting development, one can create new economic opportunities.
- ③ Geostrategic response to China - China has expanded its footprint via BRI, but Indian projects aim at expanding regional presence.
- ④ Counter terrorism & extremism by increasing monitoring across borders.
- ⑤ Better diplomatic regional relations driven by trust, mutual respect & cooperation.
- ⑥ Leadership potential - By delivering these projects, India can counter Chinese influence.

## challenges

### (1) Timely implementation

Often challenged that, "India proposes, china delivers" india needs to ensure timely delivery

### (2) Fund crunch.

Often these projects are marked with paucity of funding, and delay in clearances.

### (3) chinese dominance

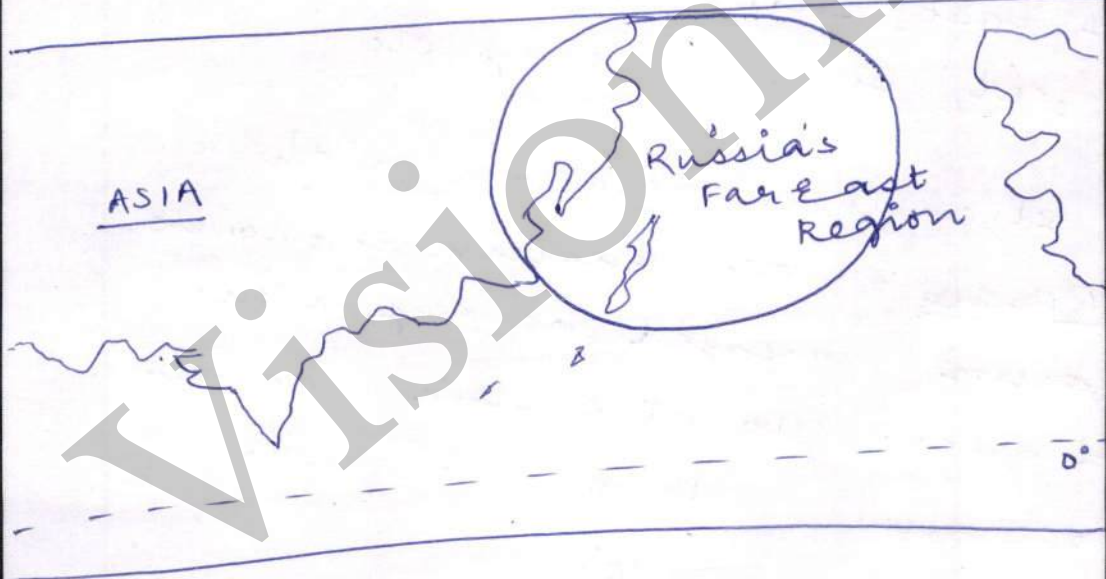
chinese overbearing presence in region is driven by its own calculations

Indian connectivity strategy will need to consider political, economic & cultural sensitivities of the region to unleash true economic potential

19. 'एक्ट फार ईस्ट' पॉलिसी को अपनाना भारत के लिए सुदूर पूर्व क्षेत्र के महत्व को रेखांकित करता है। विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, सुदूर पूर्व में भारत के हितों के समक्ष विद्यमान बाधाओं को भी रेखांकित कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

The adoption of 'Act Far East' Policy underlines the significance of the Far East region for India. Discuss. Also, highlight the impediments to India's interests in the Far East. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Act Far East policy was launched to boost India's engagement with Russia's Far East region. India announced \$ 1 billion line of credit to develop the region



### Significance of Far East Region

#### (1) Geo strategic significance

Geostrategically it gives access to rail routes, pacific routes, energy transit routes.

(2) Gateway to Pacific

It helps at connecting to rest of the world to explore more opportunities in Indo Pacific.

(3) Connectivity enhancement

Chennai - Vladivostok maritime route for export oil, natural gas etc.

(4) Boost Indian initiatives like  
Far East Initiative, SAGARMAA project, blue economy etc.(5) strengthen relations with  
Russia - The Eastern Economic forum emerged as key areas of focus to strengthen economic cooperation with aim to reach \$30 billion by 2030.Impediments to India's interest in Far East① Chinese competition

overbearing presence in South China, growing engagement with Russia

## ② Limited Resources

Indian projects are concentrated in few sectors with limited funding.

## ③ Other players

South Korea has invested heavily in ship building, manufacturing electrical equipments etc

Japan seeks to depend on Russian oil & gas resources after 2011 meltdown. It sees REE as a growing agrotechnology.

India may explore possibility of investing in infrastructural projects for having chakkar part like project even in far East to unleash true economic potential.

20. दक्षिण-पश्चिम हिंद महासागर में सुरक्षा खतरों के स्वरूप और उनकी बारंबारता में वृद्धि के मद्देनजर, इस क्षेत्र में लघु द्वीपीय विकासशील देशों (SIDS) के संबंध में भारत द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए)

As security threats increase in form and frequency in the South-West Indian Ocean, discuss the role played by India in relation to small island developing states (SIDS) in the region. (Answer in 250 words) 15

South West Indian Ocean is the area around African sovereign island states of Mauritius, Scycheelles, Comoros, Madagascar that are strategically located in South West of Indian Ocean Region.

Rising security issues in South West Indian Ocean:-

1. Piracy - connected to prominent sea lines of communication (SLOC) and troubled waters off coast of Somalia driven by
  - ↳ international piracy
  - ↳ sea borne terrorism
2. Power tussle - Chinese, French footprints have increased significantly in the region.

3. Marine environmental protection

The region is prone to oil spills, plastic pollution impacting marine ecosystem and environment as whole.

4. Illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing impacts economic resources of the region

5. climate change - coastal areas around Indian ocean are witnessing continuous rise in sea level leading to severe coastal erosion & frequent flooding

India's engagement with SIDS  
in SIND :-

- ① Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure to tackle climate change
- ② International Solar Alliance to leverage solar potential,
- ③ Information dissemination on smuggling & trafficking. in Information dissemination.

④ Island diplomacy via initiatives like SAGAR and Colombo security Conclave

⑤ During pandemic, India supported the small Island countries through aid, funds, lines of credit, vaccine Maitri

Given the future geopolitical and geostrategic engagements driven in Indo Pacific - by groupings like QUAD, India has immense potential to showcase itself as a glowing regional player.