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UPSC CSE MAINS

Previous Year Questions

Bilateral, Regional & Global Groupings — GS-II

Previous Year Questions (verbatim, official syllabus)

20 Questions

Year range: 2013–2025

Verbatim from official UPSC papers

"Master Mains with PYQs — consistency is key"

— Neil Sir, Founder, UnlockIAS

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20 Questions across 2 Sections

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Bilateral groupings and agreements

2025 GS-II 10M · 250W

Q17. India-Africa digital partnership is achieving mutual respect, co-development and long-term institutional partnerships. Elaborate.

2020 GS-II 15M · 250W

Q18. What is the significance of Indo-US defence deals over Indo-Russian defence deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

2019 GS-II 10M · 250W

Q16. 'The time has come for India and Japan to build a strong contemporary relationship, one involving a global and strategic partnership that will have great significance for Asia and the world as a whole.' Comment.

2019 GS-II 15M · 250W

Q18. "What introduces friction into the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India's national self-esteem and ambitions." Explain with suitable examples.

2018 GS-II 10M · 250W

Q16. "India's relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back." Discuss.

2013 GS-II 10M · 200W

Q20. Economic ties between India and Japan while growing in the recent years are still far below their potential. Elucidate the policy constraints which are inhibiting this growth.

Regional and global groupings and agreements

2024 GS-II 10M · 250W

Q19. Critically analyse India's evolving diplomatic, economic and strategic relations with the Central Asian Republics (CARs) highlighting their increasing significance in regional and global geopolitics.

2023 GS-II 10M · 150W

Q16. 'Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO.' In the light of the above statement point out the role of India in mitigating the problems.

2022 GS-II 15M · 250W

Q18. How will I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and USA) grouping transform India's position in global politics?

2022 GS-II 15M · 250W

Q19. 'Clean energy is the order of the day.' Describe briefly India's changing policy towards climate change in various international forums in the context of geopolitics.

2022 GS-II 10M · 250W

Q20. Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organisation like the SAARC? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two? How are Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming this new organisation?

2021 GS-II 10M · 250W

Q17. Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. What importance does it hold for India?

2021 GS-II 10M · 250W

Q19. "If the last few decades were of Asia's growth story, the next few are expected to be Africa's." In the light of this statement, examine India's influence in Africa in recent years.

2021 GS-II 15M · 250W

Q20. The newly tri-nation partnership AUKUS is aimed at countering China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. Is it going to supersede the existing partnerships in the region? Discuss the strength and impact of AUKUS in the present scenario.

2020 GS-II 15M · 250W

Q17. 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)' is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance in present times – Discuss.

2018 GS-II 10M · 250W

Q17. A number of outside powers have entrenched themselves in Central Asia, which is a zone of interest to India. Discuss the implications, in this context, of India's joining the Ashgabat Agreement, 2018.

2017 GS-II 15M · 250W

Q19. The question of India's Energy Security constitutes the most important part of India's economic progress. Analyze India's energy policy cooperation with West Asian countries.

2015 GS-II 12.5M · 200W

Q20. Increasing interest of India in Africa has its pros and cons. Critically examine.

2014 GS-II 12.5M · 200W

Q16. The aim of Information Technology Agreements (ITAs) is to lower all taxes and tariffs on Information Technology products by signatories to zero. What impact would such agreements have on India's interests?

2014 GS-II 12.5M · 200W

Q18. India has recently signed to become founding member of New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the strategic significance of these two Banks for India.

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