

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – P

Forest Rights Act

Why in News?

Amid regional parties' protests over the eviction of forest dwellers, the Jammu and Kashmir administration said it was in the process of implementing the Forest Rights Act of 2006 "to grant the rights to forest dwellers". The Forest Rights Act of 2006 provides for granting of rights to forest dwellers across the country. It was not applicable or implemented in J&K till 31st October, 2019. It has been decided that the survey of claimants by the forest rights committees for assessing the nature and extent of rights being claimed at village- level be completed by January 15, 2021.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the rights of forest dwellers, protests over the eviction of forest dwellers, the salient features of the Forest Rights Act of 2006 and the issues related to it.

General Studies I:

- Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.
- Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues.
- The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.
- Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
- History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society.
- Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
- Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.
- Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.
- Salient features of world's physical geography.
- Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
- Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

General Studies II:

- Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.

CIWP

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – P

- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.
- Role of civil services in a democracy.

General Studies III:

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
- Government Budgeting.
- Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, - different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.
- Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.
- Food processing and related industries in India- scope' and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.
- Land reforms in India.
- Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.
- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- Investment models.
- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
- Disaster and disaster management.
- Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
- Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
- Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money laundering and its prevention.
- Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

Articles Link

<https://www.fra.org.in/>

<https://tribal.nic.in/FRA.aspx>

<https://www.indiatoday.in/news-analysis/story/draft-indian-forest-amendment-bill-2019-arming-state-to-undermine-rights-and-wellbeing-of-tribals-1578054-2019-08-07>

<https://thewire.in/government/jammu-and-kashmir-gujjar-bakarwal-pahalgam>

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/illegal-eviction-of-gujjarbakarwals-from-their-hutments-in-jk-must-stop-cpim/1977572>

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – P

Figures and Maps

Rights wronged

People depend on over 31 million ha of forests in India. The government recognises rights over 2.5 million ha

How to read graphic

XX Forest land used in villages

XX Land recognised under Forest Rights Act; mostly for individual rights

1 Himachal Pradesh

0.99 mln ha

0.14 ha

2 Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand

3.37 mln ha

0.06 mln ha

3 Rajasthan

2.11 mln ha

0.02 mln ha

4 Bihar & Jharkhand

2.50 mln ha

0.02 mln ha

5 Gujarat

1.35 mln ha

0.02 mln ha

6 Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh

6.72 mln ha

0.79 mln ha

7 Maharashtra

3.17 mln ha

0.48 mln ha

8 Goa

0.09 mln ha

0 ha

9 West Bengal

0.61 mln ha

0.006 mln ha

10 Odisha

1.78 mln ha

0.29 mln ha

11 Andhra Pradesh

2.57 mln ha

0.59 mln ha

12 Karnataka

2.74 mln ha

0.01 mln ha

13 Tamil Nadu

1.92 mln ha

0 ha

14 Kerala

0.90 mln ha

0.01 mln ha

15 Assam

0.22 mln ha

0.03 mln ha

16 Nagaland

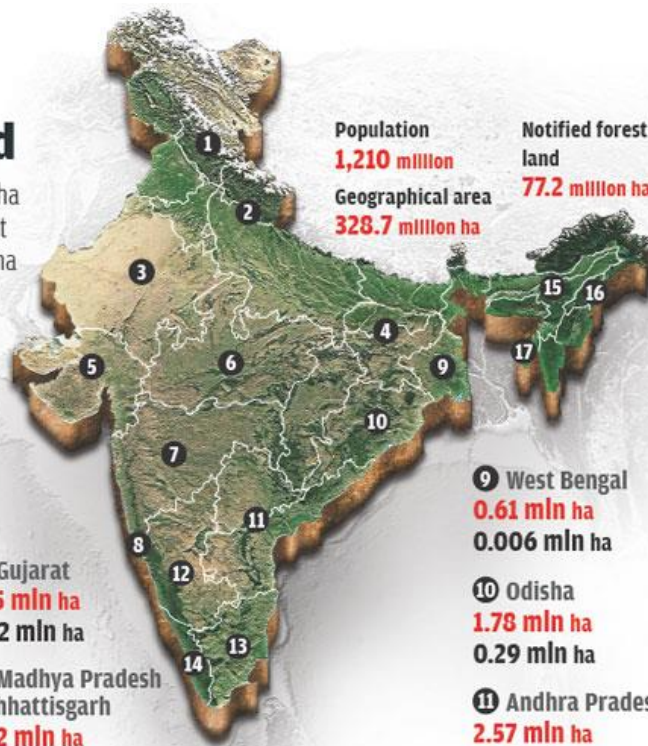
0.49 mln ha

0 ha

17 Tripura

0.57 mln ha

0.17 mln ha



Population

1,210 million

Geographical area

328.7 million ha

Notified forest land

77.2 million ha

Tribal population

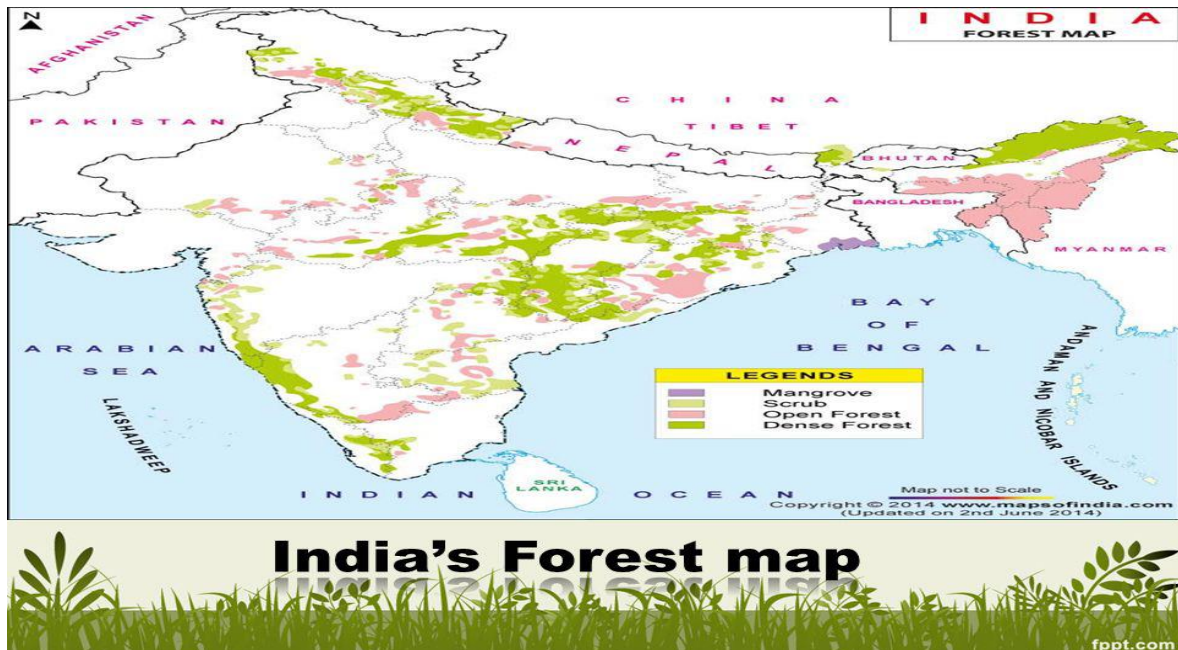
104.3 million

Source: State of Forest Report 1999, Forest Survey of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs

CIWP

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

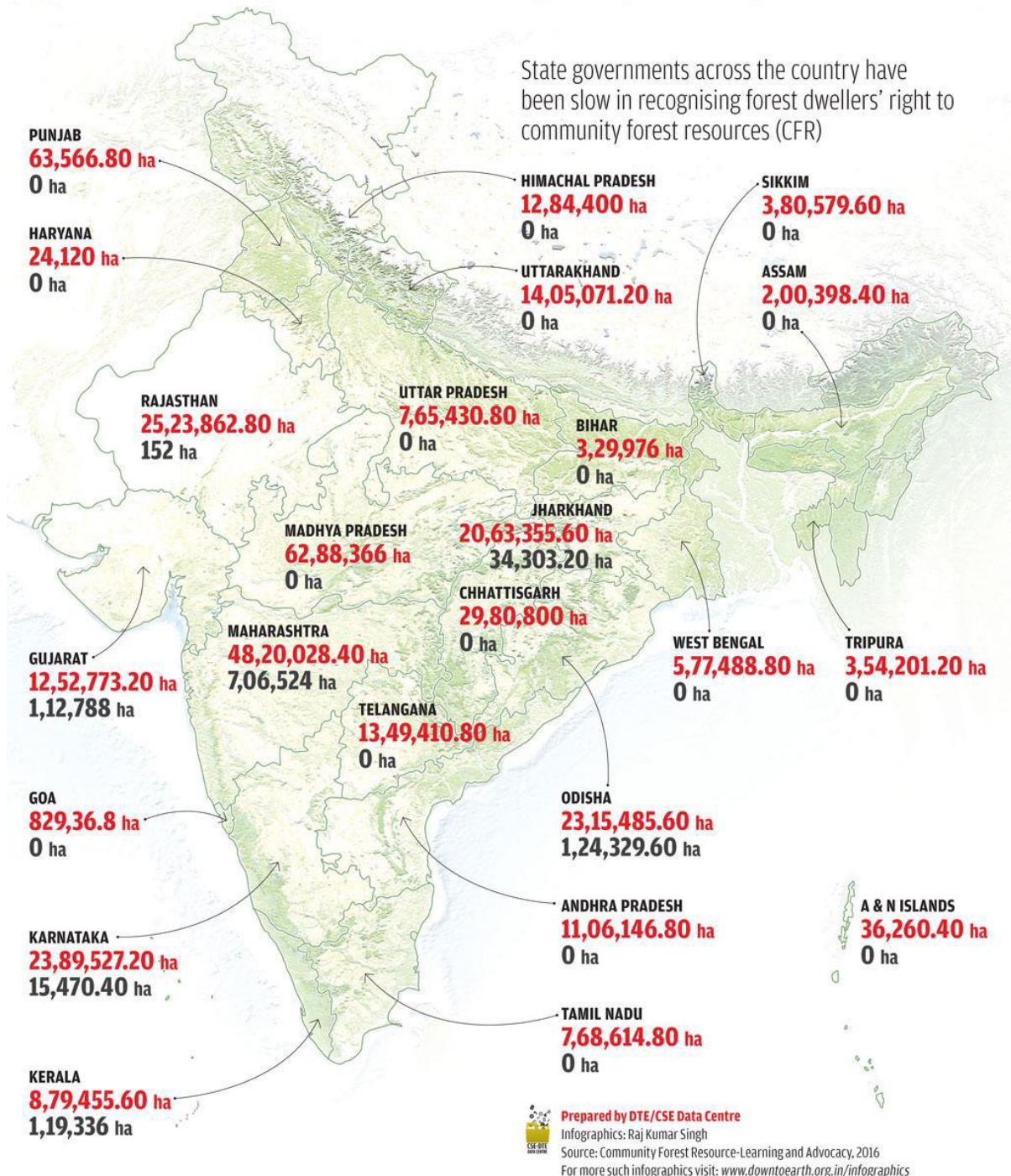
PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – P



STATE
XX ha (Potential CFR areas)
XX ha (CFR areas recognised till July 2016)

HIGH POTENTIAL, SLOW START

State governments across the country have been slow in recognising forest dwellers' right to community forest resources (CFR)



Video Links

Rajya Sabha TV: India's forests are home to lakhs of people, including the many Scheduled Tribes...who live in or near forest areas of the country.... In 2006, the Forest Rights Act was passed to give legal rights to these forest dwellers, their homes, lands and livelihoods. The Act is crucial to the rights of millions of tribals and other forest dwellers spread across multiple states of our country, as it provides for the restitution of deprived forest rights... But several wildlife groups say the Act has encouraged further encroachment on the already battered forest lands. Challenging the constitutional validity of the Forest Rights Act, they filed several petitions in the apex court in 2008.

DELHI: VIJAY NAGAR 9717380832 & OLD RAJENDER NAGAR 9811293743 | **JAIPUR:** 8290800441
BENGALURU: KORMANGALA 7619166663 & CHANDRA LAYOUT 7619136662 | **BHOPAL:** 7509975361
PATNA: 7463950774 | **INDORE:** 7314977441 | **RANCHI:** 9939982007 | www.ksindia.com

CIWP

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – P

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_p3UZCV9E

RSTV: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsMOCOuwvIE>

India and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

Why in News?

The 15th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit hosted virtually by Russia on 10 November 2020, and the 19th SCO Heads of Government Meeting hosted virtually by India on 30 November 2020, highlighted the importance of three issues, which are relevant for India's membership of the SCO. These are (i) the SCO's progress on enhancing cooperation within its socio-economic space, including through connectivity projects and digital technology; (ii) the SCO's effectiveness in countering transnational terrorism directed against India; and (iii) the role of the SCO in contributing to security and stability in Asia.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the bilateral and the multilateral relations with the member nations of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the issues related to it.

General Studies I:

- Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.
- Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues.
- The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.
- Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
- History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society.
- Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
- Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.
- Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.
- Salient features of world's physical geography.
- Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
- Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

General Studies II:

- Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.
- Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.

CIWP

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – P

- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.
- India and its neighbourhood- relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.
- Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

General Studies III:

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
- Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.
- Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.
- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- Investment models.
- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
- Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.
- Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, biotechnology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.
- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
- Disaster and disaster management.
- Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
- Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
- Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money laundering and its prevention.
- Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

Articles Link

<https://jamestown.org/program/the-shanghai-cooperation-organizations-limited-role-in-easing-tensions-between-china-and-india/>

<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/russian-foreign-minister-sergey-lavrov-says-us-indo-pacific-region-strategy-will-not-affect-our-partnership-with-india-2354446>

CIWP

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – P

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/russia-committed-to-develop-ties-with-pakistan-india-shouldn-t-have-any-concerns-russian-diplomat/story-LMJKupW1yAHzGGoV6bh1lO.html>

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/india-shanghai-cooperation-organisation/>

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-to-host-key-meeting-of-russia-china-led-shanghai-cooperation-organisation-11599059757303.html>

Figures and Maps



Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Founded in
2001



It aims to...



Resolve
border
issues



Fight
terrorism



Bolster
regional
security



Counter
American
influence in
Central Asia

SCO Members

1. China
2. Kazakhstan
3. Kyrgyzstan
4. Russia
5. Tajikistan
6. Uzbekistan
7. India
8. Pakistan



Why SCO is important

- ▶ Is seen as an Eastern counter-balance to NATO
- ▶ Enhances security cooperation among members
- ▶ Helps deal with terrorism, particularly IS terrorists
- ▶ Increases economic cooperation in the region
- ▶ China's One Belt and One Road (OBOR) initiative
- ▶ India's push for connectivity with Chabahar port in Iran
- ▶ International North-South Transport Corridor connecting the sub-continent with Central Asian countries

Issues

India's
objections
to China on
OBOR

Traditional
hostility
between India
and Pakistan

Russia
and China
standoff over
Ukraine

CIWP

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

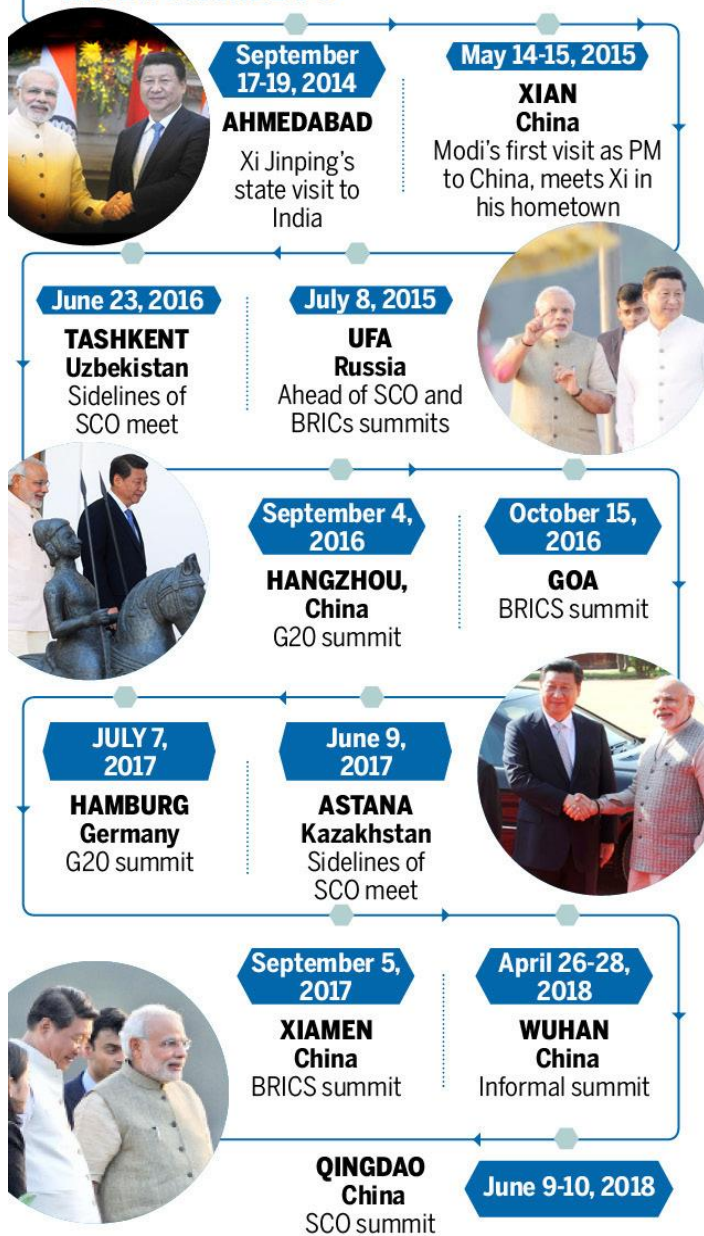
PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – P

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/shanghai-cooperation-organisation-an-explainer/articleshow/64517075.cms>

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – P

TIMELINE OF MODI-XI MEETS

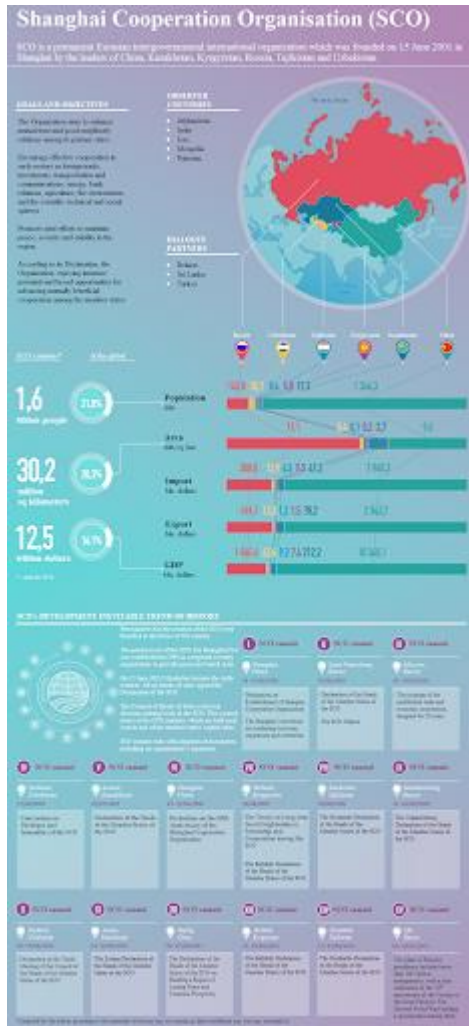


CIWP

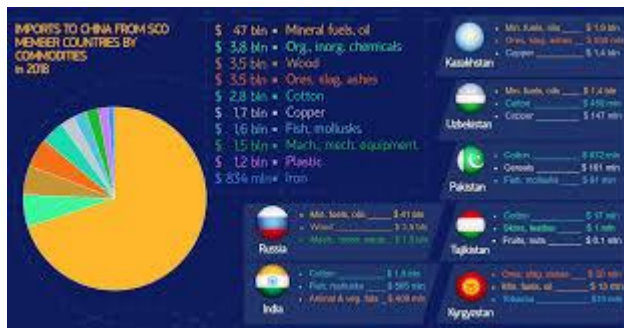
CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – P

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/modi-xi-meet-again-at-sco-summit-in-qingdao/articleshow/64517109.cms>



<http://www.brics-info.org/sco-infographics/>

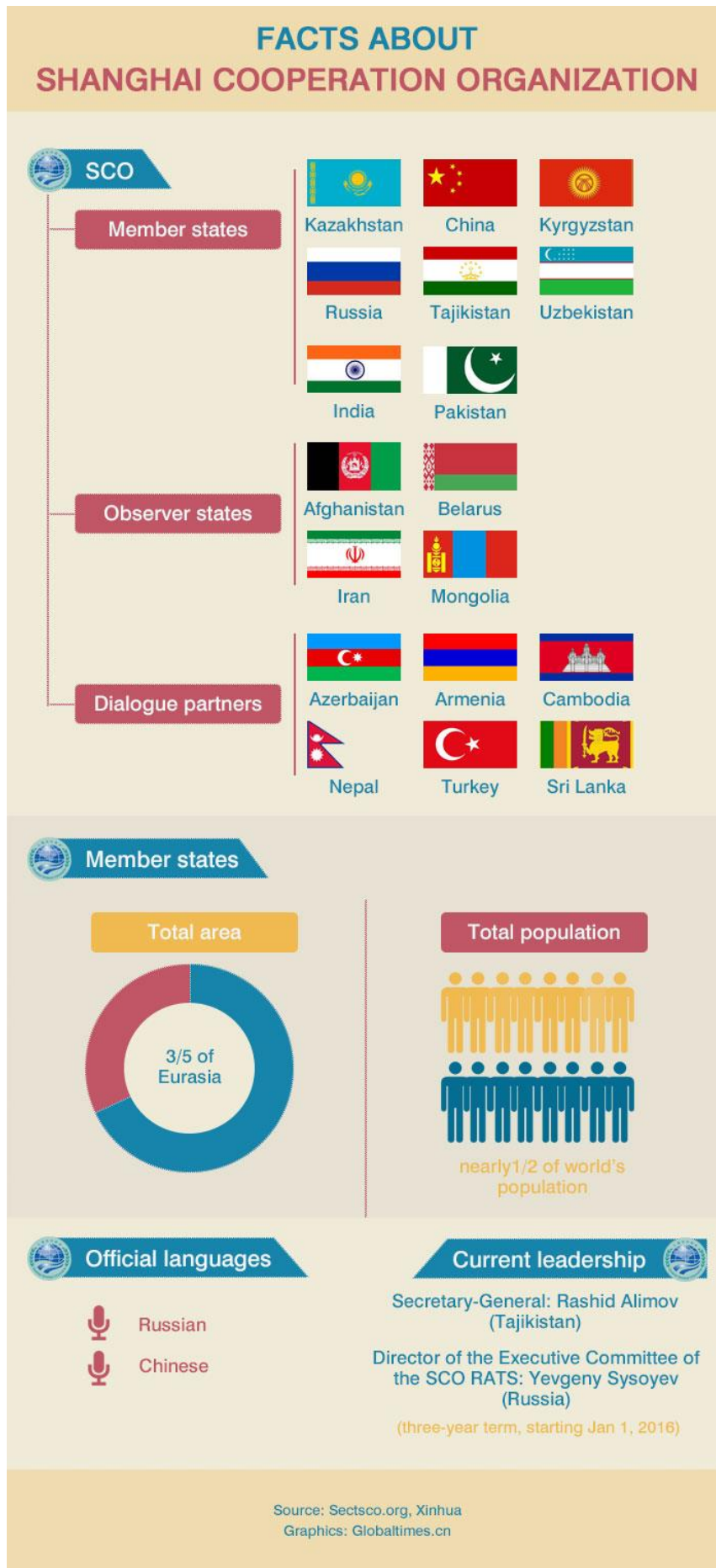


<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2019-06-15/Russia-India-enhance-China-s-trade-within-SCO-amid-tariff-war-HxJMxlgSRy/index.html>

CIWP

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – P



CIWP

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – P

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1104608.shtml>

Video Links

Rajya Sabha TV: In Depth - SCO Summit: This is the first SCO Summit that India will attend as a full member. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will reach Qingdao in China for the 18th SCO Summit on June 9th. The two-day summit is likely to see India pitch for concerted regional and global action against terror networks and favour effective connectivity links to boost trade. In today's episode, we are focusing on the agenda for the SCO Summit.... a history of how the organisation evolved and answer what are its objectives. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SNK8kp8z9w>

Rajya Sabha TV: The Big Picture - SCO Summit 2020: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan will be invited to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Heads of Government meeting to be held in India at the end of this year. Invitations will be sent to all the member countries of the SCO for the summit to take place later this year. The SCO has eight members – India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and four observer states - Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia. The official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Raveesh Kumar confirmed that the invitation will be sent out to all SCO members. It will be interesting to see if Prime Minister Khan attends the SCO summit or sends a representative on his behalf. In 2014, former Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif had visited India after an invite for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in was sent to all heads of SAARC countries. Since then, no Pak prime minister has visited India. India has scrapped all bilateral meetings with Pakistan and has held the neighbouring country responsible for sponsoring terror attacks in Kashmir. On this edition of the Big Picture we will analyse the SCO Summit and Indo-Pak relations. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9d1rU-bY78g>

Rajya Sabha TV: The history of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation: The 8-member Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a Eurasian political, economic, and military organisation. It grew out of the "Shanghai Five," that was founded in 1996.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUVdekBQY_o

India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Why in News?

The joint naval exercise conducted in the South China Sea between India and Vietnam follows two significant virtual meetings. Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and his Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Xuan Phuc, held a virtual summit on 21 December; and a bilateral meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Vietnamese counterpart General Ngo Xuan Lich was held in late November, 2020. India's growing strategic ties with Vietnam again confirms a trend that Delhi's security cooperation with nations in the Mekong subregion remain largely at the bilateral and regional levels. India has developed strong security partnerships with Southeast Asian nations at the regional level through the various ASEAN-led processes including ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) or the ASEAN Defence Minister's Meeting Plus (ADMM). A dimension that has not received much attention in India's security ties with the Mekong subregion is cooperation at subregional level.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – P

Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the bilateral and the multilateral relations with the member nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the issues related to it.

General Studies I:

- Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.
- Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues.
- The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.
- Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
- History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society.
- Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
- Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.
- Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.
- Salient features of world's physical geography.
- Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
- Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

General Studies II:

- Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.
- Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.
- India and its neighbourhood- relations.
- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.
- Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

General Studies III:

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.

CIWP

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – P

- Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.
- Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.
- Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- Investment models.
- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
- Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.
- Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, biotechnology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.
- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
- Disaster and disaster management.
- Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
- Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
- Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money laundering and its prevention.
- Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

Articles Link

<https://asean.org/>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/ASEAN>

<https://www.cfr.org/background/what-asean>

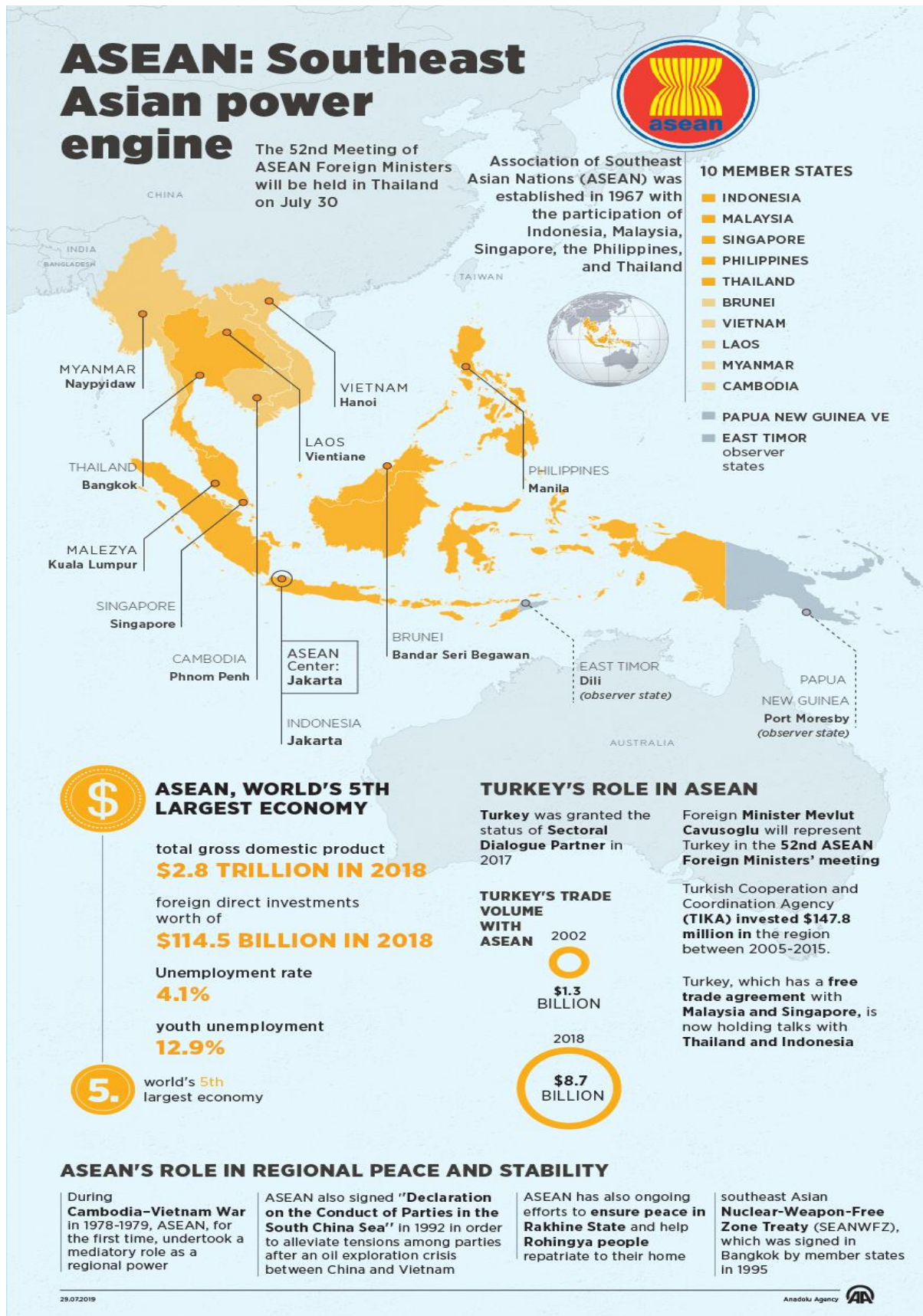
<https://www.theleaflet.in/key-to-indias-atmanirbhar-programme-is-developing-supporting-industry-like-vietnam/#>

<https://theprint.in/world/g-7-insecure-as-boris-johnson-floats-d-10-with-india-s-korea-australia-to-counter-china/587999/>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/asean-japan-and-india-will-bounce-back-stronger-post-covid-19-asian-roundtable/articleshow/80093590.cms>

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/strengthening-india-strategic-ties-mekong-subregion/>

Figures and Maps



CIWP

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – P



Video Links

Rajya Sabha TV: The Big Picture - India, ASEAN Summit: Enhancing Ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said enhancing all kinds of connectivity, including in social, digital and financial spheres, with the 10-nation ASEAN grouping is a major priority for India. He made the remarks at a virtual summit between India and the ASEAN. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region, and India and several other countries including the US, China, Japan and Australia are its dialogue partners. The summit took place amid China's aggressive behaviour in the disputed South China Sea as well as in eastern Ladakh. A number of ASEAN countries have territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea.

DELHI: VIJAY NAGAR 9717380832 & **OLD RAJENDER NAGAR** 9811293743 | **JAIPUR:** 8290800441
BENGALURU: KORMANGALA 7619166663 & **CHANDRA LAYOUT** 7619136662 | **BHOPAL:** 7509975361
PATNA: 7463950774 | **INDORE:** 7314977441 | **RANCHI:** 9939982007 | www.ksindia.com

CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

PRE-TEST MATERIAL FOR CIWP – P

The ties between India and ASEAN have been on an upswing in the last few years with focus being on ramping up cooperation in the areas of trade and investment as well as security and defence. The ASEAN region along with India together comprises a combined population of 1.85 billion people, which is one fourth of the global population and their combined GDP has been estimated at over USD 3.8 trillion. In this edition of the Big Picture we will analyse the India-ASEAN summit.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwKMd9Q1ebA>

Rajya Sabha TV: The Big Picture: India-ASEAN FTA: India and the 10-member ASEAN have agreed to initiate a review of the bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) in goods to make it “more user-friendly, simple and trade facilitative”. India is not happy about the fact that its trade deficit with ASEAN has widened significantly since the pact was implemented in January 2010. A NITI Aayog study reveals that India’s trade deficit with ASEAN doubled to \$10 billion in 2017 from \$5 billion in 2011. A review of the India-ASEAN FTA could help improve utilisation in India by making the pact simpler and more user-friendly. In the joint statement, the Ministers welcomed the recommendations of the ASEAN-India Business Council to further promote the potential of bilateral trade through the utilisation of the ASEAN-India FTA as well as cooperation in some areas of mutual interest, such as financial technology, connectivity, start-ups and innovation, empowerment of youth, and women and MSME development. On this edition of the big picture we will analyse the trade and economy relationship between India and ASEAN.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOP0UudhDdg>

Rajya Sabha TV: The Big Picture - India’s Act East Policy: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who left for Bangkok on Saturday, said India will consider whether its concerns and interests in trade in goods, services, and investments are being fully accommodated when he attends the meeting of the RCEP there. PM Modi is in Bangkok to participate in the 16th ASEAN-India Summit on November 3. He will also attend the 14th East Asia Summit and the 3rd Summit meeting of nations negotiating a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement on November 4. In his departure statement, Prime Minister said ASEAN related Summits are key elements of India’s foreign policy, most notably our Act East Policy. Highlighting the importance of East Asia Summit, Prime Minister said it gives an opportunity to present our vision for the Indo-Pacific region. The Prime Minister added that during the visit, he will also hold bilateral meetings with a number of other world leaders present in the Thai capital for related summit meetings. On this edition of the big picture we will analyse India’s Act East Policy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWHZ5BT1Oec>