International Relations · GS - II

Examine the significance of ASEAN-led regional forums in advancing India's strategic and economic interests in the Indo-Pacific region.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 16/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Act East Policy, ASEAN centrality, East Asia Summit, trade integration, supply chain resilience, maritime security, Indo-Pacific, Quad cooperation, regional stability, strategic autonomy.

Model Answer

Introduction

ASEAN occupies a central position in the Indo-Pacific regional architecture. India's engagement with ASEAN-led platforms supports its Act East Policy and broader regional interests.

Strategic Significance

- **Regional stability:** The East Asia Summit provides a platform for dialogue on geopolitical tensions and security challenges.
- **Maritime security:** Cooperation strengthens freedom of navigation, respect for international law and maritime domain awareness.
- **Strategic balance:** Engagement helps India maintain an independent and constructive role amid major-power competition.
- **ASEAN centrality:** Participation reinforces ASEAN's role in shaping an inclusive regional order.

Economic Significance

- **Trade and investment:** Stronger economic partnerships expand market access and connectivity.
- **Supply chains:** Diversification reduces excessive dependence on individual economies.
- **Connectivity:** Cooperation in infrastructure and digital networks improves regional integration.
- **Emerging sectors:** Collaboration in technology, energy and resilient infrastructure creates new opportunities.

Challenges and Way Forward

Trade imbalances, geopolitical tensions and implementation gaps require sustained diplomatic engagement, stronger connectivity and practical cooperation.

Conclusion

ASEAN-led forums provide India with important platforms to advance economic integration, maritime security and a rules-based Indo-Pacific order while preserving strategic autonomy.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP