International Relations · GS - II

Evaluate the role of the Indian diaspora in advancing India's economic diplomacy, cultural outreach and international influence. How can major diaspora-focused events contribute to strengthening India's engagement with overseas communities?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Diaspora diplomacy, remittances, investment, knowledge networks, soft power, cultural heritage, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, institutional engagement

Model Answer

Introduction

The Indian diaspora constitutes an important link between India and the wider world. Through economic contributions, professional networks and cultural exchanges, overseas Indians contribute to India's international engagement. Events such as Pravasi Bharatiya Divas provide an institutional platform for strengthening these relationships.

Contribution of the Indian Diaspora

1. **Economic diplomacy:** Remittances, investments and entrepreneurial networks contribute to India's foreign exchange earnings and economic development.

2. **Knowledge and technology transfer:** Overseas professionals in science, medicine, technology and management can facilitate research collaboration, innovation and skill development.

3. **Soft power:** Indian languages, food, yoga, cinema and cultural traditions strengthen India's global cultural presence.

4. **Political and diplomatic influence:** Diaspora communities can facilitate communication between India and host countries and promote greater understanding of India's interests.

5. **Humanitarian cooperation:** Diaspora networks often support disaster relief, charitable initiatives and development projects in India.

Role of Major Diaspora Events

1. **Institutional engagement:** Pravasi Bharatiya Divas provides opportunities for dialogue between policymakers and overseas Indians.

2. **Investment promotion:** Conferences and business interactions can attract investment into infrastructure, manufacturing, technology and tourism.

3. **Cultural outreach:** Showcasing regional heritage and traditions strengthens connections between overseas communities and their places of origin.

4. **Regional development:** Hosting major events in different cities can highlight investment opportunities and promote local economic activity.

Challenges and Way Forward

1. Address concerns relating to consular assistance, worker protection and diaspora welfare.

2. Strengthen transparent investment facilitation and reduce procedural barriers.

3. Encourage participation of younger diaspora generations through educational and cultural programmes.

4. Ensure that diaspora engagement remains inclusive and respects the sovereignty and laws of host countries.

Conclusion

Diaspora engagement is an important instrument of India's economic and cultural diplomacy. Converting cultural connections into sustainable

partnerships requires consistent institutional support, investment facilitation and protection of overseas Indian communities.

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