

**GS-II Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.**

**1. India's current tough posturing in Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is Perfectly Justified. Comment**

**Why this Question?**

- ▶▶ After seven years, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations, started by leaders from the ASEAN countries and their free trade agreement (FTA) partners in November 2012, have concluded in Bangkok.

**Key Demands of Question:**

- ▶▶ Briefly explain the India's current stand on the RCEP issues.
- ▶▶ Explain your opinion on the issue backed by the facts and information.
- ▶▶ Explain the way forward measures for the further progress in the RCEP.

**Directive Word:**

**Comment:**

- ▶▶ When you are asked to comment, you have to pick main points and give your 'opinion' on them based on evidences or arguments stemming from your wide reading.
- ▶▶ Your opinion may be for or against, but you must back your argument with evidences.
- ▶▶ These types of question offer you a chance to consolidate your reading of different subjects to justify your opinion.

**Structure of Answer:**

**Introduction:**

- ▶▶ Briefly explain what is RCEP and its importance to India.

**Body:**

- ▶▶ Explain the current India's stand in the RCEP deal.
- ▶▶ Explain your opinion on India's current stand in the issue backed by suitable evidences and arguments. For example India's merchandise trade deficit with most of the member countries.
- ▶▶ Discuss the concerns regarding the RCEP for India.
- ▶▶ Write down the steps taken to further progress in the deal.

**Conclusion:**

- ▶▶ Conclude with the way forward measures regarding the RCEP agreement.