## Big boost in India-Bangladesh trade

THANKS to improved regional connectivity and growing bilateral interest, the volume of trade between India's North-Eastern States and Bangladesh has gone up significantly in recent years. Present trends are positive enough to generate optimism among analysts about medium term prospects of North East India-Bangladesh bilateral trade: they feel that the foundation of a new trade/business hub dominated by imports and exports, has finally been laid.

The present phase of growth is the outcome of consistent efforts made by both Indian and Bangladeshi authorities during the past decade to explore new ways for expanding bilateral trade. The exercise fitted in well with India's own regional LookEast initiative, seeking to extend its diplomatic/economic outreach. While welcoming the growth in Indo-Bangla bilateral trade, Chambers of Commerce sources are hopeful that growing economic ties between the two countries could well ensure the success of the LookEast programme: by way of comparison. It can be seen Indo-Myanmar bilateral business, largely because of the volatility of Myanmar's domestic politics, has not progressed smoothly in recent years.

Broadly speaking, Bangladesh imports more finished products and value-added items from India, whereas the bigger country imports comparatively goods less processed and raw materials. This naturally results in a negative balance of trade for the smaller country. Both countries have over the years tried to reduce the gap to the extent possible, through periodic negotiations and rearrangements of existing terms of trade.

By reducing levies/withdrawing tariff on some Bangladeshi goods, India has tried to accommodate Bangladesh as far as possible. Occasionally this has evoked protests within India from sections of entrepreneurs, especially in the textile sector, who complained of losing their domestic markets. On the other hand, Bangladesh, faced with growing trade imbalance, feels India could be more helpful. However, with industry and manufacture picking up in Bangladesh in recent years, its exports have grown gradually more sophisticated.

Recent Assam-based media reports indicate that the North-Eastern States imported from Bangladesh taka 367 crore worth if items during 2019-20, a sharp increase from the year before, when the figure was taka 40 crore! (One Bangladeshi taka equals about 85/90 paise of the Indian rupee). The N-E States exported taka 472 crore worth of goods in 2018-19 and good worth taka 390 crore during 2019-20.

During bilateral negotiations, it was generally agreed that there was a rising demand in both countries to step up trade and business. The seven N-E States sold to Bangladesh large quantities of coal, engineering items and products, auto equipment, besides coal, stones, eggs and onions, etc. There was a special demand in Bangladesh for tea produced in Assam, along with cotton and products,
petroleum goods as well as glass items and ores from Meghalaya. Fruits and corn grown in Arunachal Pradesh and handicrafts from Manipur too, were popular in Bangladesh.

Similarly, in the N-E region, there was good demand for cement, plastic items and packaged foods from Bangladesh, as well as for different varieties of fish-- especially the Hilsa! With India granting Bangladesh transit rights to access Nepal and Bhutan through its territory, experts are hopeful that the volume of regional trade as a whole would expand gradually. As both India and Bangladesh have agreed to use rivers, roads and railways linking both countries mutually, travel and easier movement of goods, involving the saving of both travel time and costs, have become possible.

Moving through Bangladesh territory, the distance from Agartala to Kolkata has been reduced from about 1600 kilometres through the long Assam detour, to about 600 kms only - - and time taken has been cut from about 48 hours earlier to about 32 hours at present.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Mrs Sheikh Hasina during her meetings with Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi, had suggested that N-E-based industrialists/entrepreneurs could use the Chittagong and Mongla ports for their export trade, which were geographically much nearer than the Kolkata port. The use of Mongla port could ease the congestion and delays often experienced at Chittagong. Mongla port could earn more revenues, while Indian users could profit by saving travel time and costs, not to mention the occasional congestion at Kolkata port.

India has started dispatching engineering goods and foodgrains to Agartala from Kolkata port, using the river routes within Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, efforts are on among entrepreneurs to ascertain the possibilities of expanding trade with Nepal and Bhutan. Travel operators and agencies are confident of a rapid expansion in tourism and related activities. Bangladesh is also keen to import power from both Nepal and Bhutan, to meet its growing domestic demand. At present, the country receives fuel supplies through a pipeline from Bongaigaon refinery complex running through North Bengal.
[Practice Exercise]

- Balance of trade (noun) - the difference in value between a country's imports and exports
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.


## Vocabulary

1. Thanks to (phrase) - owing to, as a result of, because of के कारण से
2. Bilateral (adjective) - Involving two parties, especially countries. द्विपक्षीय
3. Optimism (noun) - hope, hopefulness, confidence, expectation आशावाद
4. Prospect (noun) - possibilities, potential, expectations, outlook संभावनाएं
5. Lay the foundation (phrase) - establish, institute नींव रखना
6. Hub (noun) - Centre केंद्र
7. Dominate (verb) - Control, rule, lead, govern, direct, हावी होना, प्रभुत्व रखना, श्रेष्ठ होना
8. Outcome (noun) - result, end result, consequence, conclusion परिणाम
9. Consistent (adjective) - persistent, steady, constant, stable लगातार
10. Decade (noun) - A period of 10 years दशक
11. Explore (verb) - to search and discover (about something) पता लगाना, खोजना
12. Expand (verb) - extend, increase, enlarge, grow, broaden विस्तार करना
13. Seek (verb) - try, attempt, endeavour, strive प्रयास करना
14. Outreach (noun) - The act or process of reaching out. पहुँच
15. Ties (noun) - connection, relations, link, bond, association संबंध
16. Volatility (noun) - instability, fickleness, unpredictability, variability अस्थिरता/ उतार-चढ़ाव
17. Progress (verb) - Advance, proceed, develop, make progress आगे बढ़ना
18. Broadly (adverb) - in general and without considering minor details. मोटे तौर पर
19. Result in (phrasal verb) - To be the cause of: परिणाम होना
20. To the extent (phrase) - the degree to which a subject or other thing extends इस हद तक
21. Periodic (adjective) - regular, periodical, at fixed intervals, recurrent समय-समय पर(नियमित)
22. Negotiation (noun) - discussions, talks, consultation बातचीत
23. Term (noun) - conditions, stipulations, specifications, provisions शर्त
24. Levy (noun) - charge, duty, tariff, impose, toll कर
25. Tariff (noun) - tax, duty, toll, excise कर
26. Accommodate (verb) - help, assist, aid सहायता देना
27. Occasionally (adverb) - sometimes, from time to time, irregularly कभी-कभी
28. Evoke (verb) - Evoke or provoke to appear or occur; provoke, call forth पैदा करना
29. On the other hand (phrase) - Used to introduce a contrasting point of view, fact, or situation. वहीं दूसरी ओर
30. Trade imbalance (noun) - occurs when a country's imports exceed its exports during a given time period.
31. Sophisticated (adjective) - Complex, Highlevel, Hi-tech, Erudite जटिल/ परिष्कृत
32. Taka (noun) - currency of Bangladesh टका
33. Step up (phrasal verb) - Increase, intensify, improve, maximize, accelerate, boost बढ़ाना
34. Handicraft (noun) - the making decorative domestic or other objects made by hand. हस्तशिल्प
35. The Hilsa (noun) - a breed of fish
36. Transit right (noun) - Right of carrying of goods or people by vehicle from one place to another
37. Detour (noun) - bypass, indirect route, long way around चक्करदार रास्ता
38. Ease (verb) - alleviate, relieve, comfort, mitigate, soothe; reduce कम करना
39. Congestion (noun) - Blockage, clogging, obstruction, jam, भीड़
40. Occasional (adjective) - Infrequent, rare, irregular कभी-कभार
41. Dispatch (verb) - send, forward, transmit, ship भेजना
42. Ascertain (verb) - Determine, establish, discover, find out पता लगाना
43. Expansion (noun) - growth, increase, extension, enlargement विस्तार
44. Keen (adjective) - eager, acute, enthusiastic, penetrating इच्छुक/उत्सुक

## Practice Exercise

## Direction (Q1 - Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words

[Editorial page]

1. VOLATILITY
A. Ramification
B. Patent
C. Wanton
D. Instability
2. DETOUR
A. Obsequious
B. Diversion
C. Incorrigible
D. Extricate
3. ASCERTAIN
A. Coup
B. Dormant
C. Anomaly
D. Discover
4. Idioms \& Phrase

Did it take you long to find your feet when you started your new job?
A. Become confident or successful in a particular field or activity
B. Begin/continue an activity, discussion, etc
C. To achieve something at the loss of something
D. To be considered important enough to influence other people
5. Direction: Five statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow. One of the most significant commitments of the Narendra Modi government is to ensure piped water to every rural household by 2024.
P. This, the Government claims, is a 37-percentage point rise from 2019 when the scheme was announced,
Q. where its stated aim is to ensure at least 55 litres per person per day of potable water to every rural household - which implies a mere connection does not suffice.
R. The Government commissions annual surveys to evaluate the success of the scheme.
S. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, led by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, 10.2 crore rural households, or about $53 \%$ of the eligible population, now have tap water access. T. A recent audit, by a private agency, found that around 62\% of rural households in India had fully functional tap water connections within their premises.
U. A report of a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources in March, based on numbers provided by the nodal Jal Shakti Ministry, stated that $46 \%$ households had such fully functional tap water connections.

Which among the following will be the Third sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?
A. U
B.S
C.T
D.Q
E.R

## Direction (Q6 - Q9): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

6. Although we reached his house in time, (A)/ he was left (B)/ for the airport (C)/ No Error (D)
7. The two last (A)/ chapters of the book (B)/ are very interesting. (C)/ No Error. (D)
8. The statement made by the writer (A)/ appears to be incorrect (B)/ as Dr Zakir Hussain was not born in Allahabad. (C)/ No Error (D)
9. A brave man should (A)/ always be loyal for (B)/ his own country. (C)/ No Error(D)
10. Find out the misspelt word
A. Inadequacy
B. Antebelum
C. Minuscule
D. Exhilarate

## Direction: Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.

(The Hindu Editorial: A travesty of justice - Oct 20, 2022)
The report that was submitted in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Tuesday found fault with Jayalalithaa's aide V.K. Sasikala, former Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar, two IAS officers, and three doctors, and recommended further investigation against them. (1)/ Did the Arumughaswamy Commission of Inquiry's final report clarify the circumstances that led to the death of former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, as mandated by the terms of reference or did it rest with a conclusion that followed a preset diabolical script, accentuating conspiracy theories hatched within a context of political opportunism? (2)/An investigation report is not a clean slate on which the investigator can record his whimsy that flies in the face of facts. (3)/ However, it falls perplexingly short of explaining where the fault lay with those it found culpable, or tracing a damning trail of evidence to their doorstep.(4)/ Justice Arumughaswamy, trained as a lawyer and not in medicine, makes post-facto judgments about the medical procedures (angio/surgery for a heart condition) that must have been followed in treating Jayalalithaa during her 75-day stint at Apollo hospital, and goes further out of line to make allegations against qualified medical professionals in charge of treatment, based on these conjectures. In a glaring(A) lapse, he completely diagnosis(B) the AllMS medical experts' committee's (constituted(C) by the Supreme Court of India) report released earlier, agreeing with the treatment course, and the final sidesteps(D) by the hospital.

The report cherry picks elements from the range of options provided by a panel of doctors, and partphrases from $\qquad$ 11 that suit a seemingly pre-determined narrative to arrive at conclusions. Worse, it peddles lies to heap $\qquad$ 12 $\qquad$ on respondents and witnesses, particularly obvious when it asks why Jayalalithaa was not taken abroad for treatment after she had agreed to it, ignoring documentation enclosed as part of the report recording that she categorically refused to be shifted out of the country for treatment. The report itself encloses elaborate documentation on treatment from the hospital and yet, unfathomably, accuses it of not providing contra-evidence or documents (on the surgery aspect). Coming five years after the commission of
inquiry was $\qquad$ 13 $\qquad$ and nearly six years after the death of Jayalalithaa, the report makes no attempt to render any justice, but steps out of line in making unqualified calls on medicine, and reeks of $\qquad$ . The Tamil Nadu government has done its duty by presenting the report in the Assembly, and seeking legal opinion on it.

It is now obligated to render true justice (A)/ in the matter by ensuring that (B)/ this long-drawn-out issue is good and truly buried, (C)/ along with the report. (D)

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word given in the option (From Q11 - Q14)
11. The report cherry picks elements from the range of options provided by a panel of doctors, and part-phrases from $\qquad$ that suit a seemingly pre-determined narrative to arrive at conclusions.
A. Vicissitude
B. Artful
C. Dissipate
D. Depositions
12. Worse, it peddles lies to heap $\qquad$ 12 $\qquad$ on respondents and witnesses, particularly obvious when it asks why Jayalalithaa was not taken abroad for treatment after she had agreed to it
A. Charlatan
B. Calumny
C. Verbose
D. Abysmal
13. Coming five years after the commission of inquiry was $\qquad$ 13 $\qquad$ and nearly six years after the death of Jayalalithaa
A. Adage
B. Constituted
C. Malinger
D. Innate
14. The report makes no attempt to render any justice, but steps out of line in making unqualified calls on medicine, and reeks of $\qquad$ 14 $\qquad$ .
A. Disinterested
B. Charisma
C. Malfeasance
D. Allusion
15. The following sentence may or may not contain an error in one of its parts. Identify the part containing the error. If the sentence is correct, select 'No error' as your answers.
It is now obligated to render true justice (A)/ in the matter by ensuring that (B)/ this long-drawn-out issue is good and truly buried, (C)/ along with the report. (D)
A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)
E. No Error
16. Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence. The report that was submitted in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Tuesday found fault with Jayalalithaa's aide V.K. Sasikala, former Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar, two IAS officers, and three doctors, and recommended further investigation against them. (1)/ Did the Arumughaswamy Commission of Inquiry's final report clarify the circumstances that led to the death of former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, as mandated by the terms of reference or did it rest with a conclusion that followed a preset diabolical script, accentuating conspiracy theories hatched within a context of political opportunism? (2)/ An investigation report is not a clean slate on which the investigator can record his whimsy that flies in the face of facts. (3)/ However, it falls perplexingly short of explaining where the fault lay with those it found culpable, or tracing a damning trail of evidence to their doorstep.(4)/
A. 2341
B. 1234
C. 2134
D. 3214
E. 4321
17. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence $(S)$ that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence

## ACCENTUATE

(i) Her dress was tightly belted, accentuating the slimness of her waist
(ii) The new policy only serves to accentuate the inadequacy of help for the homeless.
(iii) While the virtues of country life were still stressed, the differences between town and country became less accentuated.
A. Only (i)
B. Only (ii)
C. Only (iii)
D. (i), (ii)
E. (i), (iii),(ii)
18. In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.
In a glaring( $\mathbf{A}$ ) lapse, he completely diagnosis( $\mathbf{B}$ ) the AlIMS medical experts' committee's (constituted(C) by the Supreme Court of India) report released earlier, agreeing with the treatment course, and the final sidesteps(D) by the hospital.
A. $A-D$
B. $B-A$
C. $B-D$
D. $\mathrm{A}-\mathrm{C}$
E. No arrangement
19. Select the phrase/ connector/ word-pair from the given three options to form a single sentence from the two-sentence given, implying the same meaning as expected in the original sentences. The phrase/ connector must appear at the beginning of the final sentence.
(i) The deaths came as fighting in north-west Syria between Turkish-backed rebels and Russian-backed Syrian government forces escalated.
(ii) The risk of the two regional powers being brought into direct confrontation.
A. Raising
B. Though
C. Yet
D. Forcing
E. None of these
20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

He is suffering $\qquad$ Cancer and is not likely to survive long.
A. In
B. With
C. To
D. From

## Answers

1. D
2. $B$
3. D
4. A
5.D
6.B
5. A
6. C
9.B
7. B 11. D
8. B
13.B
9. C
10. C
16.D
17.E
11. C
19.A
20.D
[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

4. Find one's feet (Phrase) - become confident or successful in a particular field or activity. अपने क़दमों पर खड़ा कर देना
5. SPQRTU

One of the most significant commitments of the Narendra Modi government is to ensure piped water to every rural household by 2024. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, led by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, 10.2 crore rural households, or about $53 \%$ of the eligible population, now have tap water access. This, the Government claims, is a 37-percentage point rise from 2019 when the scheme was announced, where its stated aim is to ensure at least 55 litres per person per day of potable water to every rural household - which implies a mere connection does not suffice. The Government commissions annual surveys to evaluate the success of the scheme. A recent audit, by a private agency, found that around $62 \%$ of rural households in India had fully functional tap water connections within their premises. A report of a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources in March, based on numbers provided by the nodal Jal Shakti Ministry, stated that $46 \%$ households had such fully functional tap water connections.
6. (B) 'was left' के बदले 'had left' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'we' के घर पहुँचने (reach) की घटना past की है जबकि 'he' के 'airport' के लिए 'रवाना होने' (leave for) की घटना past of the past की है और past of the past की घटना के लिए Past Perfect का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-
i. Although she failed, she had worked very hard to pass.

- 'had left' will be used instead of 'was left' because 'we' have reached home in the past while 'he' has 'leave' for 'airport' is of the past of the past and Past Perfect is used for an event of the past of past; As-
i. Although she failed, she had worked very hard to pass.

7. (A) 'The two last' के बदले 'The last two' का प्रयोग होगा 'if one, two, three, etc.' Cardinal Adjectives हैं जबकि 'first, second.... next, last, etc.' Ordinal Adjectives हैं, और एक Cardinal Adjective तथा एक Ordinal Adjective का प्रयोग यदि एक साथ करना हो, तो पहले Ordinal Adjective को रखा जाता है तथा बाद में Cardinal Adjective को; जैसे-
i. The first two chapters of this book are very interesting.
ii. I have not read the last three chapters of this novel.

- 'The last two' will be used instead of 'The two last' 'if one, two, three, etc.' are Cardinal Adjectives while 'first, second.... next, last, etc.' are Ordinal Adjectives, and if a Cardinal Adjective and an Ordinal Adjective are to be used together, then the first Ordinal Adjective is placed and the latter To the Cardinal Adjective; As-
i. The first two chapters of this book are very interesting.
ii. I have not read the last three chapters of this novel.

8. 'in' के बदले 'at' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'मैं' के अर्थ में छोटे स्थानों के नामों के पहले 'at' का प्रयोग होता है जबकि किसी राज्य, देश, महादेश के नाम के पहले 'in' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-
i. He was born at Patna
ii. He was born in Bihar.

- 'at' will be used instead of 'in' because 'at' is used before the names of small place whereas 'in' is used before the name of any state, country, continent; As-
i. He was born at Patna
ii. He was born in Bihar.

9. 'for' के बदले 'to' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'loyal/faithful/ obedient/ kind' के बाद Preposition 'to' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-
i. She is not loyal to you.
ii. We should be kind to animals.

- 'to' will be used instead of 'for' because the preposition 'to' is used after 'loyal/faithful/ obedient/ kind'; As-
i. She is not loyal to you.
ii. We should be kind to animals.

10. Antebellum (noun) - occurring or existing before a particular war, especially the US Civil War. युद्ध् से पहले
11. Deposition (noun) - statement, evidence, confession बयान
12. Calumny (noun) - defamation, slander, denigration, libel, misrepresentation कलंक, झूठा अभियोग
13. Constitute (verb) - form, establish, make, compose गठित करना
14. Malfeasance (noun) - wrongdoing, crime, misconduct, malefaction भ्षष्टाचार
15. 'Good' के बदले 'well' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि verb 'bury' कि विशेषता, बताने के लिए एक adverb की जरूरत है! ध्यान रखे की good एक adjective है, जबकि well एक adverb.
16. (D) 3214

An investigation report is not a clean slate on which the investigator can record his whimsy that flies in the face of facts. Did the Arumughaswamy Commission of Inquiry's final report clarify the circumstances that led to the death of former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, as mandated by the terms of reference or did it rest with a conclusion that followed a preset diabolical script, accentuating conspiracy theories hatched within a context of political opportunism? The report that was submitted in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Tuesday found fault with Jayalalithaa's aide V.K. Sasikala, former Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar, two IAS officers, and three doctors, and recommended further investigation against them. However, it
falls perplexingly short of explaining where the fault lay with those it found culpable, or tracing a damning trail of evidence to their doorstep.
17. Accentuate (verb) - emphasize, stress, lay the stress on, place the stress on ज़ोर देना According to the given options all options are contextually correct
18. In a glaring lapse, he completely sidesteps the AlIMS medical experts' committee's (constituted by the Supreme Court of India) report released earlier, agreeing with the treatment course, and the final diagnosis by the hospital.
19. The deaths came as fighting in north-west Syria between Turkish-backed rebels and Russianbacked Syrian government forces escalated, raising the risk of the two regional powers being brought into direct confrontation.'.

| Sr.NO | Words |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Q1 | Ramification | noun Meanings |  | शाखा विस्तार |
|  | Patent | adjective | Obvious | प्रत्यक्ष |
|  | Wanton | adjective | Malicious; unjustifiable; unprovoked; egregious | प्रचंड, अकारण; प्रबल |
| Q2 | Obsequious | adjective | Fawning; subservient; sucking up to | चापलूस, ग़ुलामाना |
|  | Incorrigible | adjective | Incapable of being reformed | असंशोधनीय |
|  | Extricate | verb | To free from a difficulty | हल करना, समाधान करना |
| Q3 | Coup | noun | A brilliant victory or accomplishment; the violent overthrow of a government by a small internal group | तख्तापलट |
|  | Dormant | adjective | Inactive; as though asleep; asleep | निष्क्रिय |
|  | Anomaly | noun | An aberration; an irregularity; a deviation | असंगति, नियमहीनता |
| Q11 | Vicissitude | noun | Upheaval; natural change; change in fortune | भाग्य-परिवर्तन |
|  | Artful | adjective | Crafty; wily; sly | धूर्त, कपटी |
|  | Dissipate | verb | To thin out, drift away, or dissolve; to cause to thin out, drift away, or dissolve; to waste or squander. | नष्ट करना |
| Q12 | Charlatan | noun | Fraud; Quack; con man | मायावी, झूठा, धोखेबाज़ |
|  | Verbose | adjective | Using too many words; not succinct; circumlocutory | वाचाल |
|  | Abysmal | adjective | Extremely hopeless or wretched; bottomless | अथाह, अति-गहन |
| Q13 | Adage | noun | An old saying; a familiar bit of wisdom | कहावत |
|  | Malinger | verb | To pretend to be sick to avoid doing work | रोग का बहाना करना |
|  | Innate | adjective | Existing since birth; inborn; inherent | जन्मजात |
| Q14 | Disinterested | adjective | Not taking sides; unbiased | उदासीन, स्वार्थरहित |
|  | Charisma | noun | A magical seeming ability to attract followers or inspire loyalty | प्रतिभा |
|  | Allusion | noun | An indirect reference (often to a literary work); a hint | संकेत, इशारा |



