

लोक सेवा आयोग

नेपाल परराष्ट्र सेवा, राजपत्राङ्कित प्रथम श्रेणी, सहसचिव वा सो सरह (अप्राविधिक) पदको
आन्तरिक प्रतियोगितात्मक लिखित परीक्षा

मिति:- २०८०।०९।०२

पत्र: तृतीय

पूर्णाङ्क:- १००

समय: ३ घण्टा

बिषय: Nepal's Foreign Policy and Contemporary International Affairs.

तलका प्रश्नहरूको उत्तर बेग्लाबेग्लै उत्तरपुस्तिकामा लेख्नुपर्नेछ ।

The Language of the examination shall be English.

1. Nepal has been endorsed by the United Nations (UN) for graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status in the next five years on the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy. Nepal has been a member of the LDC group since its establishment in 1971, one among 46 LDCs around the world representing about 13 percent of the global population. Some countries in our neighborhood such as Bhutan and Bangladesh have also been recommended for graduation. Graduation of Nepal is based on Nepal having consistently met the two criteria- The Human Assets Index and The Economic Vulnerability Index during the three triennial reviews. Graduation is an important development milestone as it reflects a significant change in the development situation of a country. It comes with both challenges and opportunities, if the transition is properly managed with strong national leadership and a proper strategy, complimented by robust international partnership, it could be an opportunity to transform the structure of the economy, promote sustained human development situation and ensure inclusive and sustainable prosperity. Conversely, if there is no preparation and no clear strategy, there will be adverse impact in terms of some specific measures related to trades and other concessions and there will be no direct impact of graduation or Nepal's access to the ODA and debt and hardly any impact on technology and investment. However, Nepal should immediately prepare a comprehensive rational strategy for sustainable and meaningful graduation, given the landlocked status, mountainous terrain, geostrategic location and the unprecedented economic progress of the neighbors. India and China, a robust and multifaceted bilateral cooperation strategy with the neighbours accomplished by gradually strong regional cooperation strategy would be critical look up with regional and global value chains and networks.

Against this background, you are required to:

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- a) Make a firm assessment whether Nepal's graduation from LDC status would be helpful for country's overall development.
 - b) Highlight challenges that may encounter in the way of smooth transition to the status of developing country.
 - c) Prepare a suitable graduation strategy that reflects national realities and provides a basis for international support measures.
2. The Government of Nepal has been conducting diaspora diplomacy as one of its foreign policy tools in recent times and it has placed high hopes in the Nepalese diaspora's skills capital and knowhow for the overall development of the country by encouraging them to participate in the various aspects of Nepalese life, and offering them the various incentives by way of enacting a host of relevant laws in order to encourage

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them to participate in the overall development of the country of origin. Recently, the Government of Nepal amended the Nepal Citizenship Rules, 2063 BS to give effect to the provisions of the Constitution of Nepal and the Nepal Citizenship Act, 2063 BS with the role purpose of offering them non-resident Nepalese citizenship which allows them to enjoy full economic, social and cultural rights at par with the Nepalese citizens with the exception of political rights such as the voting rights in national elections and holding government positions of Nepal. These provisions of the laws are very very liberal compared to the practices of other countries.

The relevant laws of Nepal do not require them to pay a fee for obtaining such a citizenship certificate despite the fact that the government will lose the potential revenue by offering them NRN identity cards for free. They are also granted gratis visas to stay in Nepal. The Government of Nepal is very much aware that the number of non-resident Nepalese associated with the NRN organization is not that significant. Having established in 2003, so far these are National Coordination Councils only in 87 countries and it is reported to have only one hundred six thousand nine hundred registered members. The NRNs' contributions to the economic development of Nepal is far below of its potential. There have been allegations that the NRN organization has become a spring board for some rich NRNs to get to the high table of power in Nepal and that they are more engaged in politics by becoming like the sister organizations of the political parties of Nepal. The recently held NRN Conference was mired in overt politics and the organization is heading towards split along the parties on lines. Even an unpleasant scene was created in the conference and accusations were traded between participants. One participant went to the extent of saying that the non-resident Nepalese citizenship is nothing more than a useless piece of paper.

On the other hand, some NRNs hold the grudges that the recently amended provision of citizenship rules is not convenient in that the amendment is not clear as to whether the NRNs have to come to Nepal to obtain such a citizenship certificate all the way from their land country of resident. Moreover, the Revenue Office of the Government of Nepal does not recognize their property rights by refusing to transfer the dead of ownership of land to them in their capacity as NRNs. The Act relating to Non-Resident Nepalese, 2064 BS also does not permit them to repatriate their capital investment at once and it has to be done only on an installment basis.

As a newly assigned Joint Secretary at the Policy Planning, Development Diplomacy and Nepali Diaspora Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, if you are asked by the Foreign Minister to make the necessary recommendations to the government to address all these issues with a view to achieving the noble objectives of the existing laws and regulations, what would be your inputs to the minister ? Discuss.

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3. Nepal was one of the first least developed country that liberalized international trade and joined the World Trade Organization through accession process. However, Nepal's performance of export trade has remained dismal and now the country suffers huge trade deficits with all its major trading partners.

Critically examine the background and consequences of Nepal's trade liberalization vis-a-vis widely recognized 'stages of trade liberalization' also taking into account the key strategies contained in the recently appointed Nepal Trade Integration Strategy (NTIS) and suggest the way forward for Nepal to be competitive in export trade and make a meaningful contribution to country's economic development.

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4. a) His Excellency president Xi Jinping has been elected General Secretary of the Communist Party of China for the third consecutive term reflecting his continuance as China's Core Leader for the next five years. It may be recalled that President Xi paid a State Visit to Nepal in 2019 making a new milestone in relations between Nepal and China that have always remained cordial and fruitful.

In recent years, China has emerged as one of our most important development partner. Likewise, Chinese investment has remained one of the hallmarks of Foreign Direct Investment in Nepal. Besides, there are promising potentials for enhancing bilateral relations in the field of connectivity.

You are, therefore, requested to draft a congratulatory message for the Rt. Hon. President of Nepal to His Excellency President Xi Jinping incorporating some important aspects of bilateral relations. 15

- b) The Foreign Minister of Nepal is on a visit of an important P5 country to lobby in garnering support to Nepal's candidature to the non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council. He is scheduled to meet with his counterpart there. Prepare an aide-memoire for the Foreign Minister to handover to his counterpart towards the end of their meeting. 10

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