

International Relations





























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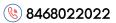


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Emerging World Order

- World Order: Arrangement of power and authority that provides the framework for the conduct of diplomacy and world politics on a global scale.
- Factors behind New World Order: Decline of Post-War Multilateralism; 'Global Polycrisis' & Instability; Rise of Regional & Agenda-Specific Alliances; Shift to Multipolarity; Strategic Self-Help.

India's Role as a Global Peace Maker

- India's Contributions to Promoting International Peace: India's role in peacekeeping E.g., Contributed > 2, 53, 000 troops, the largest number from any country; Cultural diplomacy ('Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'), ITEC, Induction of AU in G20.
- Way Forward for peace-building
 - » **5-S Approach (Samman, Samvaad, Sahyog, Shanti, Samriddhi):** Embodies India's independent, dialogue-driven foreign policy.
 - » Capacity Building: Establish dedicated peace teams in MEA (similar to Norway's peace unit in Oslo).

India and the Global South

- Global South, refers to technically and socially less developed countries which are located in Southern Hemisphere, primarily in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
- India's Initiatives showcasing advocacy for Global South: Social Impact Fund, Global South Young Diplomat Forum, Induction of African Union into G20, Vision of Aarogya Maitri.



Rise of Minilaterals

- Minilaterals are informal and targeted grouping with fewer states (usually 3 or 4) which intends to address specific threat, contingency or security issue sharing the same interest for resolving it within a finite period of time.
- Benefits of Minilaterals for India: Strategic Autonomy & Multi-Alignment (QUAD); Voice of the Global South (IBSA); Co-opting partners with similar interests (INSTC), etc.

Rise in Nuclear Weapons Arsenal

- India's Nuclear Arsenal Growth
 - » Warhead Increase: From 164 (2023) to 172 (2024) now holds a two-warhead edge over Pakistan.
 - » **Modernization Drive:** Part of a global trend where 9 nuclear-armed states are upgrading arsenals (e.g., new delivery systems).
- Global Nuclear Landscape
 - » **Total Warheads:** 12,121 worldwide, with 2,100 on high alert (ready for launch).







🕲 | Indian Diaspora

- The Indian government does not have a specific definition for diaspora, but it generally includes Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI).
 - » In 2015, Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and OCI cardholders were merged into one category, OCI.
- India's engagement with its diaspora is characterized under the rubric of 4Cs Care, Connect, Celebrate & Contribute.
- Government Initiatives: Emigration Act (1983), e-Migrate System, Migration & Mobility Pacts, etc.

Q India-Indo Pacific

- Indo Pacific Definition: We consider Indo-Pacific as a region that extends from the Eastern shores of Africa to the Western shores of America.
- Trade & Energy:
 - » 50% of global trade and 40% of oil passes through IP.
 - » India's 90% trade and 80% critical freight traverse the region.

🕰 | Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)

- It is a non-treaty-based voluntary arrangement that promotes cooperation for a free and open Indo-Pacific and the rules-based regional order.
- Philosophy: Builds upon India's 'Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)' initiative of 2015.



- Quad is a Plurilateral framework of maritime democracies and a Global Force for Good that delivers real, positive, and enduring impact for the Indo-Pacific.
- Members: Australia, India, Japan, US (diplomatic partnership, not military alliance).
- Purpose: Promote an open, stable Indo-Pacific.
- Focus Areas: Health, climate, tech, space, infrastructure, cyber.

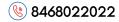


- It's a trilateral strategic defence alliance between Australia, the UK, and the US.
- AUKUS serves as a platform for advancing defence technologies.
- Pillars of AUKUS
 - » Pillar I: UK & US assisting Australia in acquiring nuclear-powered submarine.
 - » **Pillar II:** Focuses on joint development of cyber capabilities, AI, etc.

BRICS

Major Initiatives of BRICS: BRICS countries institutionalized the New Development Bank (NDB) in 2014; Contingency Reserve Arrangement; BRICS R&D centre for vaccines; In 2022, trade between BRICS countries totaled some \$162 billion.









SCO

- SCO's Role in Global Multilateralism
 - » Geopolitical Reach: Covers 80% of Eurasia and 42% of the world's population.
 - » **Economic Influence**: Contributes ~25% of global GDP.
 - » On the sidelines of SCO, 2024, External Affairs Minister reiterated the three mutuals mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests.



ASEAN

- Importance of ASEAN for India:
 - » India's 4th largest trading partner (Bilateral trade: \$122.67B during 2023-24).
 - » Indo-Pacific strategy: ASEAN centrality in India's 'Act East' policy and stability in India's east (e.g., Myanmar).
 - » Connectivity with North East: Example: Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Project.
 - » Secure critical maritime routes: Including the Malacca Strait.



BIMSTEC

- Genesis: Formed in 1997 via the Bangkok Declaration with original 4 Members as BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand).
- Secretariat: Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Objective: Promote economic development, social progress, and regional peace in Bay of Bengal region.
- 7 Priority Areas/Pillars (led by each Member): E.g. Security pillar is led by India.



India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor

- Established through a MoU at the 2023 G20 Summit in New Delhi.
- Aims to develop multi-modal connectivity infrastructure.
- Consists of two corridors: Eastern (India to Gulf) and Northern (Gulf to Europe).
- Part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), a counter to China's BRI.



2@ G20

- Founded in 1999, following the Asian financial crisis.
- ♦ Annual summit: G20 Summit held annually, under the leadership of a rotating Presidency.
- About G20 Rio de Janeiro
 - » Historic first inclusion of African Union (AU) as full member.
 - » Third consecutive Global South host: Brazil (2024), following Indonesia (2022) and India (2023).



NATO

- ♦ NATO committed to **investing 5% of GDP in defence**, a significant jump from **previous 2% commitment**.
 - » 3.5% to core defence requirements (e.g., procurement, etc.)
 - » 1.5% for defence- and security-related investments (e.g., infrastructure, defence industry).
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🍱 🔤 🛘 India- China

South China sea tensions

- China claims almost the entire SCS based on historical rights dating back to the Western Han dynasty (1992 claim; marked by "nine-dash line").
- » Global Trade: 1/3 of global maritime trade transits through the SCS (3.5 million sq km); 40% of globally traded petroleum products move via this route.
- » Geostrategic Route: Connects Pacific and Indian Oceans via Malacca Strait—crucial for global shipping lanes.
- » Chinese Militarization:
 - Building of Artificial Island (2013–15): ~3,000 acres developed on seven reefs in the Spratly Islands.
 - Full militarization of three islands.



CPEC

- CPEC is a 3,000-km-long corridor of infrastructure projects connecting China's Xinjiang province to the **Gwadar Port** in Balochistan, Pakistan.
- It is a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), launched by China in 2015.
- CPEC passes through Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) without India's consent.



Indus Water Treaty

- The term 'abeyance' refers to a state of temporary disuse or suspension, but it is not a legally recognized **concept** under international treaty law.
- Neither IWT nor the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969 (VLCT) provides 'abeyance' as a basis for halting or suspending treaty obligations.
- Signed: 1960 by India & Pakistan, with World Bank as signatory.
- Objective: Share Indus River system waters.



Shimla Agreement

- Background Signed in 1972 after India-Pakistan 1971 War, which led to the creation of Bangladesh.
- Key Provisions of the Shimla Agreement
 - » United Nations Charter shall govern the relations between the two countries.
 - Settle differences by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations or by any other peaceful means mutually agreed upon.
 - The agreement converted the 1971 ceasefire line into the LoC.
 - Both sides pledged to respect each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence



India-Sri Lanka

- India extended \$4 billion aid.
- India's early assurance enabled \$2.9 bn IMF package (2023).
- India is the largest trade partner and top FDI contributor.







India-Afghanistan

- India has not officially recognized Taliban.
- Trade and commerce between both countries is ongoing, including through the Chabahar port.
- The Salma Dam for agriculture, Zaranj-Delaram Highway for trade, transmission projects for electricity, Indian Embassy Complex.



🌃 | India-Bangladesh

- India formally revoked transshipment facility for Bangladesh exports from India.
- Trade reached \$18 billion in 2021-22, making Bangladesh 4th-largest export destination for India and India is Bangladesh's **largest trading partner** in South Asia.
- Bangladesh is a part of BBIN.
- Bangladesh's crackdown on Indian insurgent groups since 2009, effectively halting cross border insurgency.



│ India-Maldives

- Act as 'toll gate' western and eastern Indian Ocean chokepoints.
- Maldives lies along SLOCs
- Ensure IOR Navigation freedom.
- Maldives location makes it a strategic counterweight to China's expanding presence in the IOR.



🔀 | India-Bhutan

- Robust Political Friendship: Founded on the Treaty of Friendship.
- India supports Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan (2024-29).
- BRO built most of Bhutan's roads under Project 'DANTAK'.



Indian Ocean Region

- Economic: Handles 1/3rd bulk cargo, 2/3rd oil shipments globally.
- Geostrategic: Central location controls maritime chokepoints (SLOCs).
- Naval Strength: Anti-piracy ops (Gulf of Aden), Malabar exercises (US, Japan, Australia).
- **Defence Diplomacy: Operates Sittwe Port (Myanmar).**
- Coastal radars in Mauritius, Sri Lanka.
- Minilaterals: Colombo Security Conclave.



India-West Asia

- 4th largest crude; 2nd largest LNG & LPG Provider.
- Trade Relations: Bilateral \$85 bn; UAE is the 3rd largest.
- Remittances account for 19.2% of the total.



- Japan's 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific' (FOIP) strategy.
- Both converge at the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) initiative.
- Cooperation in Science & Technology missions: E.g., Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX).
- Infrastructural development: E.g., Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail project.
- Foreign Investment: Target of 5 trillion-yen investment in India (2022-2027).



India's Act East Policy

- Look East Policy solely focused on ASEAN; AEP focused on Indo-Pacific Region.
- AEP in Action:
 - » Partnership with ASEAN, BIMSTEC, IORA, etc.
 - » Growing Institutional Collaboration: India joined IPEF, SCRI, etc.



India-Africa

- ♦ India is Africa's 4th largest trading partner, with \$85 billion in bilateral trade and \$75 billion in investments (India was the **third-largest investor in Africa** by capital in 2022).
- Development in Africa: India Provides a \$12 billion concessional credit.
- India advocated for African Union's permanent G20 membership during India's presidency.



🚂 | India-U.S.A

- Significance of a Robust India-US Relationship
 - » Defence: Signed Security of Supplies Arrangement (SoSA).
 - » Science and technology: Launched iCET (2023).
 - » Countering Terrorism: US extradited of 26/11 accused Tahawwur Rana to India.
 - Industry: Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance (ASIA) announced in 2025.
 - Culture: First ever 'Cultural Property Agreement' signed on the side-lines of the 46th World Heritage Committee.

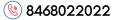


India-France

- France is India's 2nd largest arms supplier (33% share, SIPRI).
- Joint exercises: VARUNA (naval), FRINJEX (army), and multilateral drills (La Perouse, ORION).
- FRIND-X (France-India Defence Startup Excellence) launched.
- FDI: France invested \$660 million (2022–23). Airbus-Tata to manufacture helicopters; Akasa Air-CFM deal for 300+ LEAP engines.











- Set the bilateral trade target of USD 100 billion by 2030.
- Promote bilateral settlement system using national currencies.
- Russia is India's top military supplier accounting for 36% of total defense imports.
- Russia became India's top crude oil supplier.

International Humanitarian Law

- Important Principles of IHL
 - » Principle of distinction: Distinguish at all times between civilians & combatants.
 - » **Principle of proportionality**: Requires parties to anticipate incidental harm provided that they are reasonably foreseeable.
 - » **Principle of precaution:** Requires parties to an armed conflict to take constant care to spare the civilian population.



United Nation Security Council

- UNSC was established by the UN Charter in 1945 as one of the six principal organs of the UN. Its primary
 responsibility is to maintain international peace and security.
- The council has 5 permanent members and 10 non-permanent members elected for a two-year term.
- ♦ India is a founding member of UN and has served as a non-permanent member of UNSC for 8 terms.



UN Peacekeeping

- India's Contribution to UN Peacekeeping
 - » India has contributed services of approximately 287,000 troops to peacekeeping missions.
 - » First country to contribute to the **Trust Fund on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**, set up in 2016.
 - » Launched the 'Group of Friends' to promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers.
 - » Promoted the role of women peacekeepers in countries such as Congo, Liberia, South Sudan, and Haiti.
 - » Established the Centre for **UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK) by** the Indian Army to train over 12,000 troops per year.



The International Criminal Court (ICC)

- 4 categories of Crime under ICC
 - » Genocide
 - » Crimes against humanity
 - » War crimes
 - » Crimes of aggression

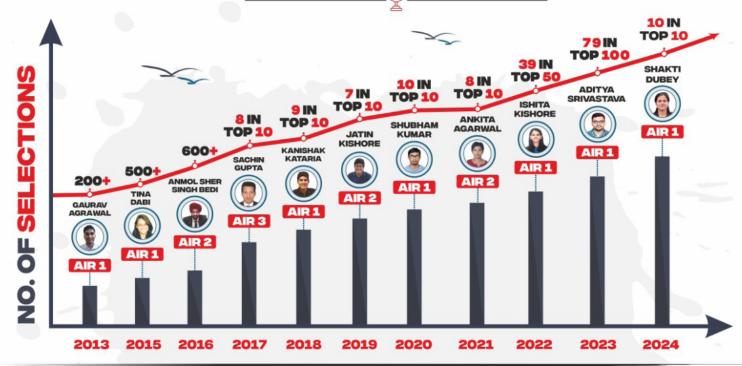


Commonwealth

- The British Commonwealth of Nations began in 1926 when Britain and its Dominions agreed to be equal members under the British Crown, without UK rule.
- In 1947, India sought independence but wanted to remain in the Commonwealth as a republic.
- Commonwealth Represents: 14.5 trillion economy; 32% of World Population; More than 60% of population aged 29 or under.



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