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INSPIRING INNOVATION

International Relations

Classroom Study Material 2025

June 2024 to May 2025

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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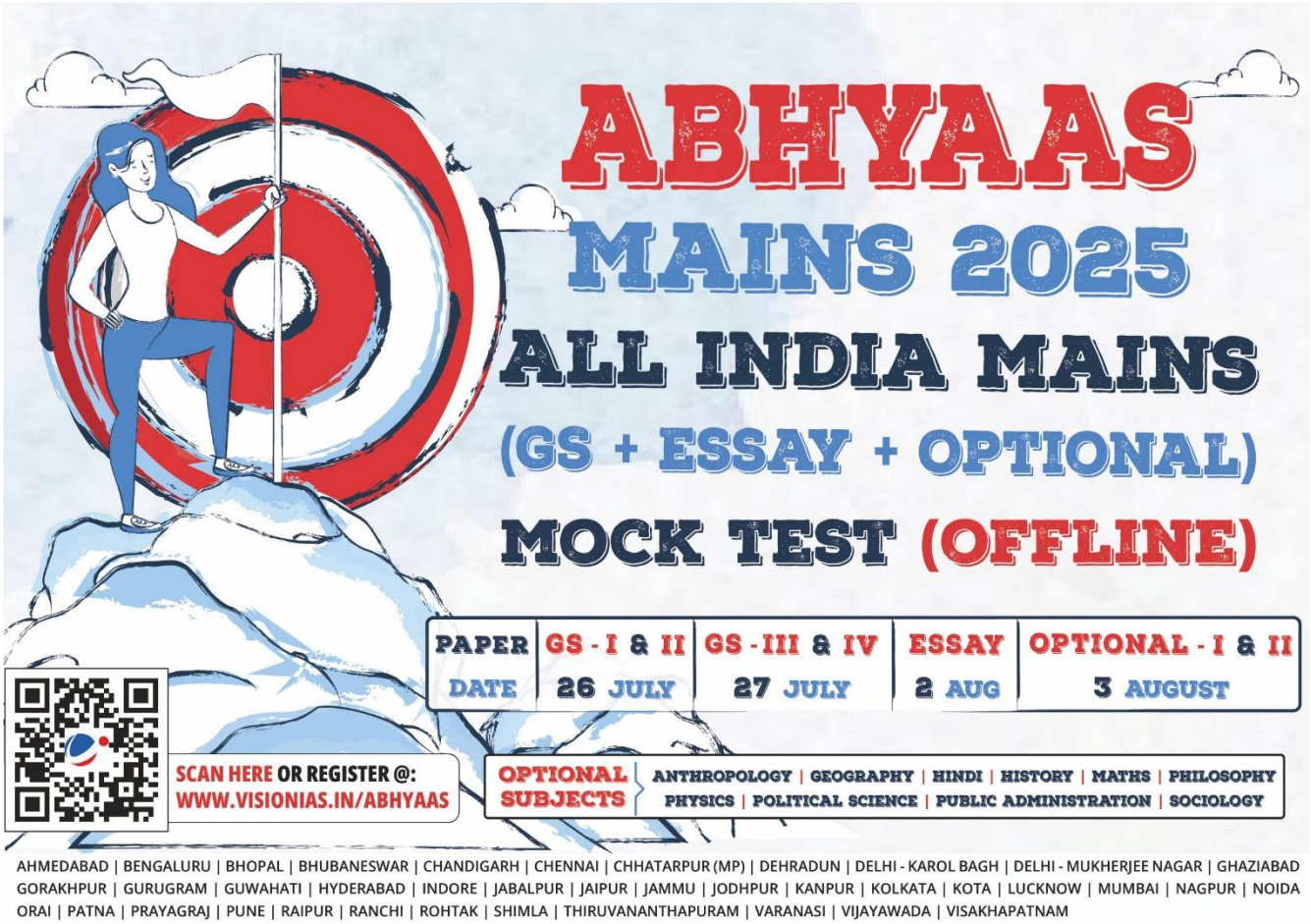

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Preface

To the Aspirant Who Dares to Dream

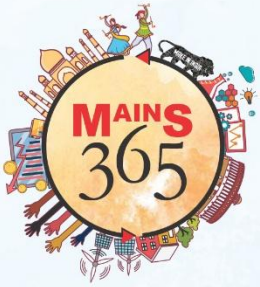
In the quiet study halls and late-night sessions of aspirants across India, an unyielding resolve to conquer one of the most challenging examinations – the UPSC Civil Services Examination – burns bright. Success in the UPSC CSE 2025 requires more than just diligence; it demands a strategic approach, an integrated understanding, and a precise ability to weave different facets of knowledge into meaningful answers. **International Relations 365** has been designed with this very philosophy, to provide aspirants with an exhaustive, structured resource that not only maps to the syllabus but also mirrors the evolving dynamics of global diplomacy.

Q.1 Why 90% of UPSC aspirants fail to crack mains?

- **Scattered Information:** Jumping between various sources, leading to confusion.
- **Lack of Relevance:** Many resources fail to map current issues with the UPSC syllabus.
- **Missing Analysis:** Factual content without perspectives, stakeholders, or solutions lacks impact.
- **Overlooking Diversity:** Ignoring regional, gender, caste, and economic dimensions limits answer depth.
- **Poor Answer Structure:** Not knowing how to present knowledge effectively.

But what if you could overcome all these hurdles with a single, comprehensive resource?

Q2. Why Mains 365 International Relations?



This document is your one-stop annual guide that comprehensively covers the most crucial, examinable global relations topics of the year. The sections are curated and analyzed according to the UPSC syllabus, ensuring a comprehensive preparation for **GS-II (International Relations).**

Additionally, the document provides ample examples that can be effectively supplemented in **Paper IV (Ethics)** and **Essay writing,** offering a multidimensional approach to tackling complex topics.

Q3. Will It Actually Save You Time in the Exam Hall?

Yes. Through visual aids and infographics, this document serves as a quick-recall tool, allowing you to navigate through complex topics and focus on answering efficiently. The multidimensional treatment (particularly addressing India's interests in varied global developments) of each issue guarantees that you answer with depth and nuance—exactly what UPSC values.

1.2.1. INDIA AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Why in the News?

India hosted the **third Voice of Global South Summit** in virtual format.

More on the News

- **Sept, 12th, 2024** was observed as the International Day for **South-South Cooperation.**
- **International Day for South-South Cooperation** marks the **1978 adoption** of the **Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.**

What is 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.**
- **Brandt Report** proposed a division between North and South countries based on various parameters such as technological advancement, GDP etc.

CAN BE USED AS AN INTRODUCTION

Challenges of Global South:

- **Under representation:** No permanent UNSC seats for Africa/Latin America.
- **Debt Crisis:** Developing nations' debt rises twice as fast as developed ones (UNCTAD).
- **Climate Vulnerability:** Pacific Islands face high risks from rising seas (WMO).
- **Ideological Divides:** Clashes with Global North on democracy/human rights norms.

READY TO USE INFOGRAPHICS

Brandt Line

Significance of Global South for India

- **International influence:** Support India's aspiration of being the voice of the Global South.
- **Strategic consideration:** Part of India's "multidirectional alignment" strategy. It also helps to offset China's influence.
- **Economic development:** Global South can provide abundant resources and market for Indian products.

How is India positioning itself as a voice for Global South?

- **By undertaking projects:** Extending financial, budgetary and humanitarian assistance to partner countries.
- **Capacity building and emerging as 1st responder of the Global South. E.g.** India-UN Capacity Building Initiative, Vaccine Maitri initiative during Covid-19, Operation Brahma (Myanmar)
- **Leading the Global Climate Agenda: E.g.** ISA & CDRI, supporting CBDR.
- **Reforming multilateral institutions: E.g.** Demand for broadening of the UNSC's permanent membership.
- **Alternative Mechanisms on issues like democracy and human rights: E.g.** based on Panchsheel, Gujral Doctrine and Principle of Non-Aligned Movement.

DIMENSIONS BACKED BY EXAMPLES

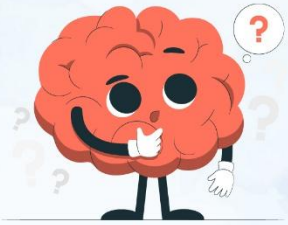
Q4. How can I enhance the credibility of my answers and make them stand out from the rest?

Incorporating **well-defined key terms, validated dimensions with examples, data-backed arguments, relevant quotes, and popular phrases such as 'Strategic Autonomy' and 'Cheque-book diplomacy'** will not only enhance the credibility of your answers but also make them stand out from the rest.

Q5. How is It Structured for the 3-Hour Examination?

Each topic follows a **golden sequence**—Context → Background → Multi-dimensional Analysis → Way Forward—enabling you to quickly adapt frameworks, plug in insights, and craft answers efficiently.

Q6. Can you demonstrate with an actual question?



PYQ: 'Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO.' In the light of this statement, point out the role of India in mitigating the problems.

Quick extract from Mains 365 – Social Issues Marriage at a Glance →

- Terrorism Stance: India's firm position on cross-border terrorism.
- China's Dominance: India balancing SCO's China-centric tendencies.
- Economic & Energy Cooperation: India's role in economic partnerships.
- Regional Connectivity: Promoting initiatives like INSTC.
- Selective Engagement: Focus on counter-terrorism cooperation.

Plug these into Intro–Body–Conclusion:

- One can introduce by stating India's refusal to sign the SCO Defence Ministers' declaration, due to selective condemnation of terrorism, highlights its firm stance.
- In the body address how India balances China's dominance by promoting regional economic cooperation, such as accessing Kazakh uranium and fostering connectivity through INSTC.
- Conclude by emphasizing India's role in steering SCO towards development-focused goals rather than conflict.

Result: A focused, 250-word answer demonstrating India's strategic role in mitigating SCO conflicts with clear examples and diplomatic efforts—aligned with UPSC expectations.

Q7. Any final pro tip?

Approach this document not as a book to read once but as a repository of frameworks. Internalize the use of contemporary examples and structure your answers with the cues provided. You'll write faster, think clearer, and score better.

Best Wishes,

Team VisionIAS

1. DYNAMICS OF CHANGING WORLD ORDER

1.1. EMERGING WORLD ORDER

Why in the News?

At BIMSTEC, External Affairs Minister stated that the new world order will be **regional** and **agenda-specific**.

Factors behind New World Order

- **Decline of Post-War Multilateralism**: ***For instance***, traditional institutions like the UN struggle to manage modern conflicts (**e.g.,** Russia-Ukraine war, Gaza crisis).
- **'Global Polycrisis' & Instability**: Interconnected challenges—wars (Ukraine), trade conflicts, pandemics, and climate change—reshape global priorities.
- **Rise of Regional & Agenda-Specific Alliances**: **E.g.,** Platforms like BRICS reduce reliance on Western-led systems, promoting **South-South cooperation without being anti-West**.
- **Shift to Multipolarity**: Power is diffused among multiple nations (**e.g.,** India's strategic autonomy in the Ukraine conflict).
- **Strategic Self-Help**: Nations prioritize resilience in supply chains, energy, and disaster response **(e.g**., BIMSTEC for regional cooperation).

Opportunities for India in an Emerging World Order

- **Voice of the Global South: Promotes non- Western democracy.** E.g., India played a critical role in inclusion of Africa as a bloc in G20.
- **Climate Diplomacy:** Backs green growth, finance reform. E.g., ISA**.**
- **Balanced Multipolarity:** Engages dynamically in platforms promoting diverse agendas. E.g., BRICS, SCO, QUAD, I2U2, etc.
- **Digital & Tech Leadership:** Through CoWIN, UPI, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), etc.
- **Issue-based Cooperation:** E.g., BIMSTEC (connectivity, disaster management), IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Framework).

Challenges Before India's Role in the Emerging World Order

- **Fragmented Global Cooperation**: Dysfunctional institutions (**e.g.,** WTO's weakened dispute mechanism) limit India's trade growth (only **4.3% global trade share in 2023**).
- **Climate Justice Divide**: Developed vs. developing nations clash over climate finance **(e.g.,** COP27's Loss & Damage Fund debates).
- **Geopolitical Rivalries & Regionalism**: Shift from global to regional blocs **(e.g.,** BRICS, QUAD) complicates consensus-building.
- **Deglobalization & Protectionism**: Trade wars (U.S.-China) and policies like EU's CBAM hurt India's export competitiveness.
- **Other Key Challenges**: Balancing ties with U.S. and China; weak diplomatic presence in key regions; unresolved border disputes and regional tensions.

Conclusion

India's vision of a regional, agenda-specific world order **— as championed at BIMSTEC** — reflects the dawn of multipolar, **polycrisis-resilient diplomacy**, where collective **self-help, strategic autonomy, and connectivity redefine global partnerships."**

1.2. INDIA'S ROLE IN GLOBAL DIPLOMACY

1.2.1. INDIA'S ROLE AS A GLOBAL PEACEMAKER AT A GLANCE

Path to Peace

The **"Path to Peace"** Summit on Ukraine, held in Switzerland, aligns with India's consistent stance of advocating peaceful resolution through dialogue and diplomacy.

India's position on Ukraine

India calls for an **immediate cessation of violence** and hostilities.	India calls **for humanitarian access to a conflict** situation.	India recognised that global order is **anchored on law**, UN Charter and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty.	India believes in **the path of dialogue and diplomacy** to resolve conflict.

Global Peace-making in India's Interest

- **Global instability is a hurdle** to India's goal of becoming a developed economy by 2047
- **India as a Potential Global Player:** India's peace mediation advances its net security provider role.

"We have stayed away from the war, but we are not neutral, we are in favour of peace. We come from the land of Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi with a message of peace"

— Shri Narendra Modi

India's Contributions to Promoting International Peace

Voice of the Global South: E.g., India amplifies southern voices, as seen in its push to include the AU in G20.	**India has Conflict Resolution Experience:** E.g., Mediating the Sri Lankan civil conflict.	**Peacebuilding through Development:** E.g., in Africa (ITEC Programme) and Afghanistan (**e.g.,** Salma dam).	**Cultural Diplomacy: E.g.,** India's philosophical ethos 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' promotes global harmony	**India active in peacekeeping: E.g.,** Contributed > 2, 53, 000 troops, the largest number from any country

Barriers to India's Leadership in Global Peace-making Efforts

Tensions with Pakistan (Pahalgam attack) China **(Galwan attack, 2020)** limit India's neutrality as a peacemaker.	**Internal conflicts:** E.g., UN raised alarms on human rights violations in Manipur.	**Resource Constraints:** Focus on domestic issues like poverty hampers global peace efforts.	Ties with the US and Quad are **perceived as aligning with Western interests** which undermines India's neutrality.	Compared to US and UK, **India's limited diplomatic influence** affects its mediating role.

Way Forward

Leverage Vishwa Bandhu Role: India should proactively lead global peace-making.	**Partnerships:** Collaborate with Global South **(e.g.,** Brazil, Indonesia) and Western mediators **(e.g.,** Norway).	**Capacity Building:** Establish dedicated peace teams in MEA/think tanks for conflict resolution **(similar to Norway's peace unit in Oslo).**	**5-S Approach (Samman, Samvaad, Sahyog, Shanti, Samriddhi):** Embodies India's independent, dialogue-driven foreign policy.

Conclusion

India's role in conflict resolution is increasingly significant as it emerges as a voice for the Global South. Shifting from ad hoc to active international engagement, India's diplomatic efforts reflect its growing global influence.

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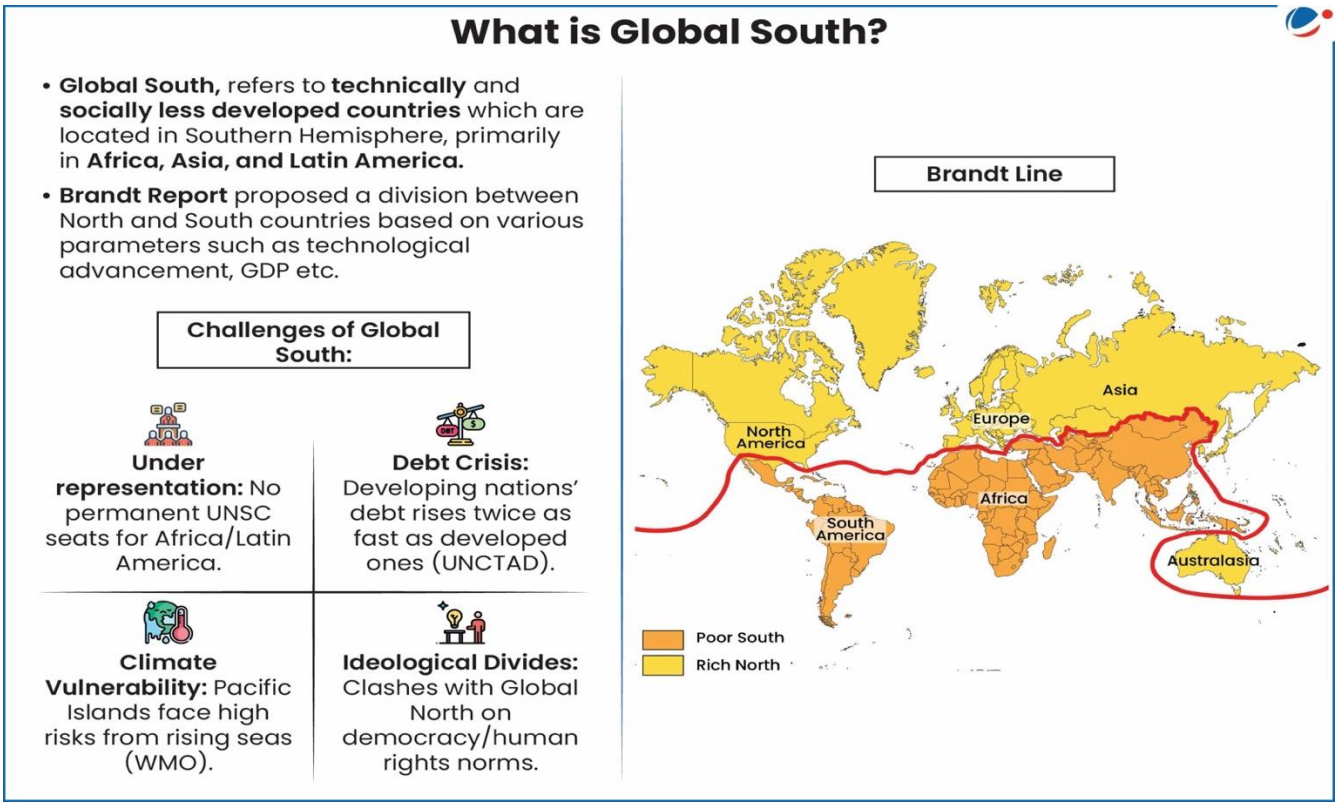

Significance of Global South for India

- **International influence: S**upport India's aspiration of being the voice of the Global South.
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How is India positioning itself as a voice for Global South?

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- **Alternative Mechanisms on issues like democracy and human rights: E.g**. based on Panchsheel, Gujral Doctrine and Principle of Non- Aligned Movement.

India's Initiatives showcasing advocacy for Global South

- **Social Impact Fund:** India will contribute $25 million for accelerating Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in Global South.
- **Global South Young Diplomat Forum:** Launched to promote education and capacity building.
- **Induction of African Union into G20:** As a permanent member during India's G20 Presidency.
- **Vision of Aarogya Maitri:** One World-One Health is India's mission for health security.

Challenges for India in leading the Global South

- **Competition with China**: BRI, cheque book diplomacy.
- **Diplomatic Challenge:** Balancing strategic partnerships with powers such as USA, Russia while trying to represent Global South can be diplomatically challenging.
- **Limited Comprehensive National Strength:** India's limited national strength and poor manufacturing industry, coupled with low S&T innovation and labour quality, pose challenges.
- **Diverse Interests in South-South Cooperation**: Varying economic, cultural, and developmental priorities among countries, like landlocked African nations versus island states.

Conclusion

Empowering the **Global South** demands ***unity, equity, and innovation, establish joint funds, Leverage Platforms like G20—India's Voice of Global South Summit and Global Development Compact embody this shift:*** from '**cheque-book diplomacy'** to people-centric, debt-light, climate-smart, technology-shared global leadership.

1.3. RISE OF MINILATERALS

Why in the News?

Chinese aggression in the Indo-Pacific has prompted the emergence of **'Squad', a minilateral grouping** between **the US, Japan, Australia and the Philippines.**

More on the News

- Squad is seen as an addition to the series of **security minilateral groupings** in the **Indo-Pacific** such as the **QUAD, AUKUS, US-Philippines-Japan trilateral and the US-Japan-South Korea trilateral etc.**
- Its formation has highlighted the **growing preference for Minilateralism** as the means of cooperation in the global world order.

What are 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.**

Reasons Behind the Rise of Minilaterals

Failure of Multilateral Institutions	Advantages of Minilateralism
• **Ineffectiveness in addressing new challenges (e.g.,** ASEAN's silence on China in the South China Sea). • **Great-power rivalry hindering consensus (e.g.,** WTO's dysfunctional dispute system, UNSC reform demands). • **Rising Chinese assertiveness** leading to new alliances **(e.g.,** QUAD, AUKUS). • **COVID-19 exposing weaknesses (e.g.,** WHO's handling of the pandemic). • **"Tyranny of Majority"**—Developed nations resist developing countries' demands **(e.g.,** CBDR in climate change	• **More flexible & agile** than cumbersome multilateralism, enabling **faster consensus.** • **Issue-based cooperation** among like-minded nations **(e.g.,** India-Japan-Australia Supply Chain Initiative). • **Effective amid deglobalization & protectionism** (e.g., bypassing US-China trade tensions).

Benefits of Minilaterals for India

- **Strategic Autonomy & Multi-Alignment:** Allows India to balance partnerships (**e.g.,** QUAD for Indo-Pacific stability) without over-reliance on any single bloc.
- **Voice of the Global South:** Bridges Western and developing world interests (**e.g.,** IBSA for UN reforms & South-South cooperation).
- **Co-opting partners with similar interests**: **E.g.,** Australia, France, and India trilateral focuses on regional security; **India-Iran-Armenia Trilateral-** to boost International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) etc.
- **Transnational Problem-Solving**: Tackles food, water, and energy security (**e.g.,** I2U2 with UAE, US, Israel for tech-driven agriculture).
- **Diverse Strategic Networks**: Engages with rival blocs (**e.g.,** QUAD with the West, INSTC with Iran/Russia).
- **Reducing China-Centric Dependence**: Shifts supply chains (**e.g.,** Chip 4 alliance) and builds alternative coalitions.

Challenges of Minilaterals

- **Exclusion of key stakeholders undermines Global South representation: E.g.,** India-France-Australia trilateral leaves out other Indo-Pacific nations.
- **Small groupings lack resources** to tackle systemic & global challenges **(e.g.,** climate change).
- **Risk of Exclusionary Bloc Politics**: Fuels geopolitical tensions **(e.g.**, China labels QUAD as "Asian NATO").
- **Informal structures reduce oversight** and enforceability of agreements**: E.g.,** SCRI lacks binding commitments.
- **Informal Nature and lack of proper structures** may lead to less effectiveness in shaping of state policies,
- **Erosion of Multilateralism**: Fragments global governance (**e.g.,** QUAD's ambiguous role vs. WTO's structured consensus).

Conclusion

As India should embrace the concept of **Minilateralism along with Multilateralism** in line with philosophy of '***Sarvajan Hitaya Sarvajan Sukhaya'*** **(Everyone's benefit, everyone's happiness).** Moreover, India should keep **pushing for reforms at the multilateral level** to safeguard a universal rules-based framework while utilising the minilateral route in the short term.

1.4. GEOPOLITICAL RISK TO GLOBAL ECONOMY

Why in the news?

According to IMF's Global Financial Stability Report, **Global geopolitical risks** remain **elevated,** raising concerns about their potential impact on macro financial stability.

More on the News

- **A global shift** from **economic integration** to **geo-economic fragmentation (GEF)**, signaling the **replacement of globalization**.
- **Geo-Economic Fragmentation (GEF):** It is Policy-driven reversal of global economic integration, driven by strategic concerns such as **Friendshoring, Nearshoring and Exploitation of Economic Dependencies by countries.**
- **Channels of GEF:**
  - **Geopolitical Alignments: Retreat from Multilateralism, emergence of Economic Blocs** and **Strategic National Policies.**
  - **Trade Restrictions**: Tariffs, non-tariff barriers, Currency Manipulation. E.g. USA's CAATSA Act.

Geopolitical Risks

- **Trade Weaponization:** The strategic use of trade policies and tools as a foreign policy instrument, aimed at influencing a partner's actions or policies by exploiting trade vulnerabilities.
  - US threat to slap **secondary tariffs** on countries buying Russian oil including India.
  - Western sanctions following **India's nuclear tests in 1974 and 1998** led to a reliance on thorium reserves.
- **Multiple threats to supply chains:** Geopolitical rivalries, conflict, competition for resources, cyberattacks, etc.
- **A fragmented tax environment: E.g.,** Minimum global tax is becoming adopted by many countries, while others are withdrawing from multilateral tax policy.
- **Demographic, technological and cultural pressures on workforces: E.g.,** Aging populations, mass retirement, falling birth rates (in developed markets), culture wars, AI integration, etc.

Implications of geopolitical risks

- **Financial Contagion:** Geopolitical risks can **spill over to other economies** through **trade** & **financial linkages**, raising the risk of contagion.
- **Macroeconomic Impact:** Increased geopolitical risk can lead to **economic disruptions**, such as **supply chain disruptions** and **capital flow reversals**.
- **Investor Confidence:** Geopolitical risks generally **lower investor confidence,** leading to **market uncertainty** and **increased volatility.**
  - **E.g., The U.S.-China trade war significantly impacted stock prices in both economies.**
- **Multilateral Institutions**: Undermines cooperation and erodes trust**. E.g., WTO's dysfunctional Dispute Settlement System.**
- **Sovereign Risk:** Increased military spending and economic **downturns raise public-debt-to-GDP ratios**, escalating **fiscal sustainability** concerns and sovereign risk.

Key Policy Recommendations for Managing Geopolitical Risks

- **Enhance Financial Oversight:** Integrate country-specific geopolitical risks into financial institution supervision.
- **Strengthen Capital Buffers:** Maintaining adequate capital and liquidity.
- **Deepen Financial Markets** with robust regulations, **Strengthening Domestic Production.**
- **Maintain Macroeconomic Buffers:** Adequate fiscal space and international reserves are crucial**.**
- **Improve Crisis Preparedness:** Strengthening frameworks to manage financial instability.
- **Supply Chain Resilience**: **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative** (SCRI) (Australia, India, Japan), **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity** (IPEF), **Mineral Security Partnerships (MSP)** etc.
- **Countering Dominance**: E.g. **China Plus One** (business strategy that prevents investing in China only).

Conclusion

"In an era of **rising Geo-Economic Fragmentation (GEF),** with **80% of IMF-tracked** risks tied to **supply chain disruptions and trade wars,** proactive policies—like **financial resilience, strategic buffers, and crisis**

readiness—are vital to mitigate **sovereign risks, supply chain shocks, and investor volatility** in a deglobalizing world."

1.4.1. CHINA-PLUS-ONE STRATEGY

China-Plus-One Strategy

What is the China-Plus-One Strategy?
China-Plus-One refers to a strategy in which companies avoid investing only in China and diversify their businesses to alternative destinations. Coined way back in 2013, it is a global business strategy.

Background: Why Did It Emerge?

30 years of Western investment in China due to: › **Low labour** and **production costs.** › **Rapidly expanding** domestic consumer market.	**This led to:** › **Overconcentration** of global supply chains in China. **E.g.,** Rare Earth Elements (REEs). › **Heightened vulnerability** to disruptions. **E.g.,** China's REE export control.

Key Drivers Behind the Shift

US-China Trade Tensions: Peaked in late 2010s, pushing MNCs to explore alternatives.	**Rising Labour & Compliance Costs** in China.	**Geopolitical Distrust over China's policies: E.g.,** Italy and Brazil exited BRI.	**Strict Data Regulations:** China's **Personal Information Protection Law** (effective Nov 2021), raising compliance cost.	**Global push for resilient supply chains** (18-nation roadmap) of 2022.

Why Has India Lagged Behind?

Less integration with global supply networks.	**Protectionist Trade Policies:** Preference for self-reliance over trade openness.	**India avoided** major regional trade deals (e.g. RCEP).

The Way Forward for India

Focus on integration with global value chains. **E.g., Apple's iPhone chain** – Production linked incentives (PLI).	Promote export competitiveness and regulatory transparency. **E.g.,** National Single Window System (NSWS)	Enter into strategic FTAs to attract investors seeking a China alternative. **E.g.,** UK FTA (negotiated2025)

Conclusion

If just **5% of the estimated $4 trillion** in potential US capital outflows redirect to India, it could **mean $200 billion in annual foreign inflows,** doubling India's current inflow of **2.5% of GDP.**

1.5. SPACE DIPLOMACY AT A GLANCE

Space Diplomacy

India has expanded its space diplomacy by signing cooperative agreements with over 60 countries and multiple multilateral organizations, a majority of these in the last five years.

What is Space Diplomacy?

- **Space diplomacy** leverages space science and technology to foster **global cooperation, strengthen ties between nations, and advance foreign policy goals.**
- **It enables countries** to collaborate on shared **challenges.**

India's efforts towards Space Diplomacy

Global Collaborations Key projects: NISAR mission, Artemis Accords participation.	**Satellite Launches** Launched 163 foreign satellites (2019-24). Assisted Nepal with satellite development.	**NavIC Navigation System:** India's alternative to **GPS & BeiDou,** expanding global operations.	**South-South Cooperation: South Asia Satellite (2017)** supports communication & disaster management.	**Space Security:** Advocates PAROS (Prevention of Arms Race in Outer Space) at the UN.

Significance of Space Diplomacy

Promotes International Cooperation: E.g., ISS collaboration among US, Russia, Europe, etc.	**Addresses Global Challenges: E.g., Satellite data sharing** for disaster response.	**Prevents Conflict & Ensures Arms Control:** E.g., Outer Space Treaty (1967) bans WMDs in space.	**Develops Space Law & Governance: E.g., UN COPUOS** discusses space laws and policies.	**Reduces Space Debris Risks: IADC** coordinates debris mitigation efforts.

Challenges in India's Space Diplomacy

Balancing Leadership & Collaboration: E.g., SAARC Satellite boosts regional influence but raises concerns about neighbors' tech dependence.	**Technological Gaps:** India lags behind US & China in some advanced space technologies.	**Dual-Use Technology Concerns:** ASAT tests and missile development draw international scrutiny.	**Private Sector Integration:** Managing private space companies while maintaining government control remains complex.

Way Forward for India's Space Diplomacy

Global Governance Leadership Leverage Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) tech to propose frameworks for space debris management .	**Space Security & Strategic Partnerships** Enhance Quad cooperation on space situational awareness (SSA) and satellite navigation. Strengthen defense ties with Israel & France for satellite surveillance.	**Commercial Space Diplomacy:** Market cost-effective satellite launches via NSIL to attract global clients.	**Capacity Building for Global South** Offer affordable space solutions (ground stations, small satellite launches). Expand UNNATI program to train scientists from developing nations.

Conclusion

The Global South must shape equitable space governance through diplomacy, ensuring peaceful expansion of space capabilities while influencing fair international rules and norms.

1.6. RISE IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARSENAL

Why in the News?

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its **SIPRI Yearbook 2024** highlighting a **concerning rise in nuclear weapon development** and **deployment.**

Key Findings on Global Nuclear Trends & India's Posture

- **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).
  - **Declining Transparency**: US & Russia have reduced data sharing amid rising tensions.
  - **Operational Surge:** While total warheads decline, deployed/usable warheads are increasing yearly.

Why Nations Pursue Nuclear Weapons?

Security Deterrence	Domestic Political Pressures	Prestige & Norms
Balance of Terror": **Nations like India acquire** nukes to counter nuclear-armed rivals **(e.g.,** China-Pakistan axis).	**"Nuclear Lobbies":** Military, scientists, and politicians push for arsenals to boost institutional power.	**Great Power Symbol:** Nuclear status grants geopolitical influence (e.g., UNSC permanent seats correlate with nuclear capability).

Threats Posed by Nuclear weapons

Global Threat Perceptions

- **Escalation of Nuclear Risks:**
  - **Geopolitical tensions hinder disarmament efforts. E.g.,** Russia's withdrawal from New START and CTBT ratification.
  - **Nuclear saber-rattling:** Russia's 2023 "nuclear apocalypse" warnings. North Korea's threats over US-South Korea drills.
- **Risk of Nuclear Disaster: Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia plant** attacked (2024), raising fears of radiation leaks.
- **Emerging Threats**
  - **Cyber-Nuclear Risks:** Hacking nuclear command systems or facilities.
  - **Space Nukes:** EMPs from orbital detonations could cripple satellites and create space debris.

India's Threat Perceptions

- **China's Nuclear Modernization: Potential shift from "No First Use"** and **"minimum deterrence", increasing** regional instability.
- **Pakistan's Nuclear Posture**
  - **Tactical nuclear weapons (TNWs):**
    - Designed to counter India's **Cold Start Doctrine.**
    - Lower nuclear threshold due to no **"No First Use" policy.**
  - **Cascading Arms Race:**
    - India builds nukes to deter China → Pakistan builds more to counter India → Escalation cycle.

Nuclear Threat Mitigation

- **United States, Russia and NATO** states commit not to issue public threats of **NFU.**
- Agree to place all **tactical nuclear weapons** into **central storage** under **verification.** Gradual nuclear weapon reduction.
- **Limit the size of their nuclear arsenals** and adopt **a bilateral nuclear material production freeze.**

Conclusion

*"We affirm that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. As nuclear use would have far-reaching consequences, we also affirm that nuclear weapons—for as long as they continue to exist—should serve defensive purposes, deter aggression, and prevent war"***.** Joint Statement of the Leaders of the Five Nuclear-Weapon States (US, China, UK, Russia, France).

1.7. INDIAN DIASPORA

Why in the News?

Standing Committee on External Affairs (2024–25) released a report on **Indian Diaspora Overseas**.

About 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.
- According to the **World Migration Report 2024**, India has the **largest international migrant population** (~18 million).
- The composition of the Indian diaspora is diverse, consisting of **labourers/workers, traders, political, leaders, professionals as well as students.**
- India's engagement with its diaspora is characterized under the rubric of **4Cs - Care, Connect, Celebrate & Contribute.**

Significance of Indian Diaspora

For India

- **Socio-Cultural Impact: Preserves Indian traditions** and promotes **cross-cultural understanding** through festivals, language schools, and religious practices.
  - The Indian diaspora in **Girmitiya countries like Fiji**
- **Economic Impact**
  - **Remittances:** India received **$125 billion in 2023,** about **3.4% of GDP.**
  - **Technological Influence:** Indian-origin leaders like **Sundar Pichai (Google)** and **Satya Nadella (Microsoft)** shape the global tech industry.
- **Political Impact**
  - **Leadership:** Various political leaders across the globe has Indian roots including. **E.g.,**
    - **Rishi Sunak** UK's first Prime Minister of colour
    - **Kamala Devi Harris,** the first woman and the first coloured **Vice President of the USA**
  - **Diplomacy: Influences policies in host nations, strengthening India's global ties.**
    - **E.g.,** The Indian American community played a role in the **Indo-US Nuclear Deal.**

For Destination Countries

- **Diversity & Multiculturalism:** Enhances local culture with Indian traditions, languages, etc.
- **Labor Supply:** Fills workforce gaps, especially in **Gulf countries** (construction, healthcare, hospitality).
  - **E.g.,** The Indian community with a strength of **approx. 1 million is the largest expatriate community in Kuwait**
- **Business & Entrepreneurship:** Indians drive economic growth by launching businesses and creating jobs.

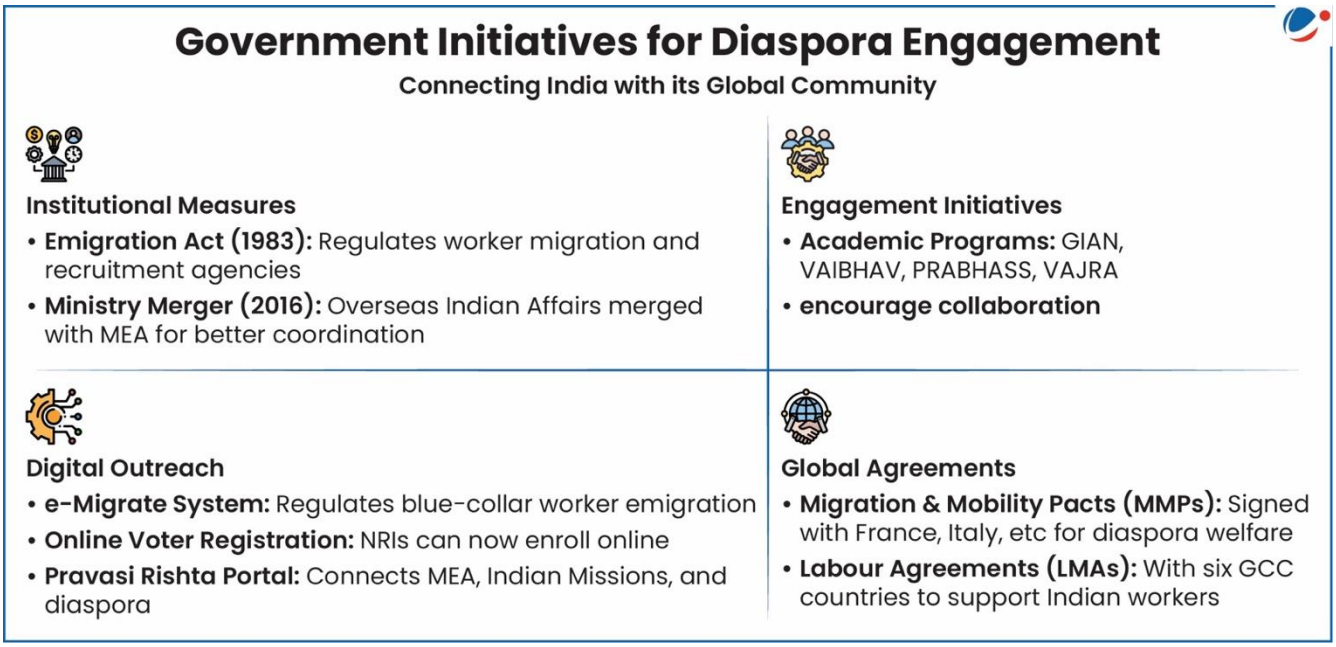
Challenges Faced by the Indian Diaspora

West Asia

- **Conflict Zones:** Wars (Yemen, Israel-Palestine) endanger expatriates, requiring costly evacuations.
- **Job Insecurity:** Policies like *Saudisation* displace low-skilled workers, forcing returns.
- **Data Gaps:** Lack of accurate migrant data (e.g., Qatar) hampers assistance efforts.

Europe, North America & Australia

- **Secessionist Movements:** Pro-Khalistan protests (US, UK, Canada, Australia) strain diplomacy.
- **Racism & Discrimination:** Ethnicity-linked violence persists.
- **Immigration Hurdles:** Strict visas (e.g., H-1B in US) disrupt lives.
  - ***Example:*** **H**-1B children no longer get automatic US citizenship.



Way Forward for Strengthening Diaspora Engagement

- **Legal & Policy Reforms**
  - **Emigration Bill 2023:** Finalize and enforce to protect migrant workers' rights.
  - **Diaspora Database:** Encourage registration via embassies for better decision-making.
  - **Grievance Redressal:** Expand **MADAD portal** and introduce a unified complaint system like CPGRAMS.
- **Leveraging Knowledge & Skills**
  - **Skilling Programs:** Train workers for better jobs abroad.
  - **Diaspora Networks:** Link professionals with Indian businesses to convert **brain drain into brain gain**.
- **Ensuring Safety & Security**
  - **Portability of Benefits:** Enable social security transfers through international agreements.
  - **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs):** Strengthen victim protection and fight transnational crimes.

Conclusion

The Indian diaspora serves as a **vital link between India and the world**, acting as **"living root bridges"** that strengthen cultural, economic, and diplomatic ties.

1.8. KEYWORDS

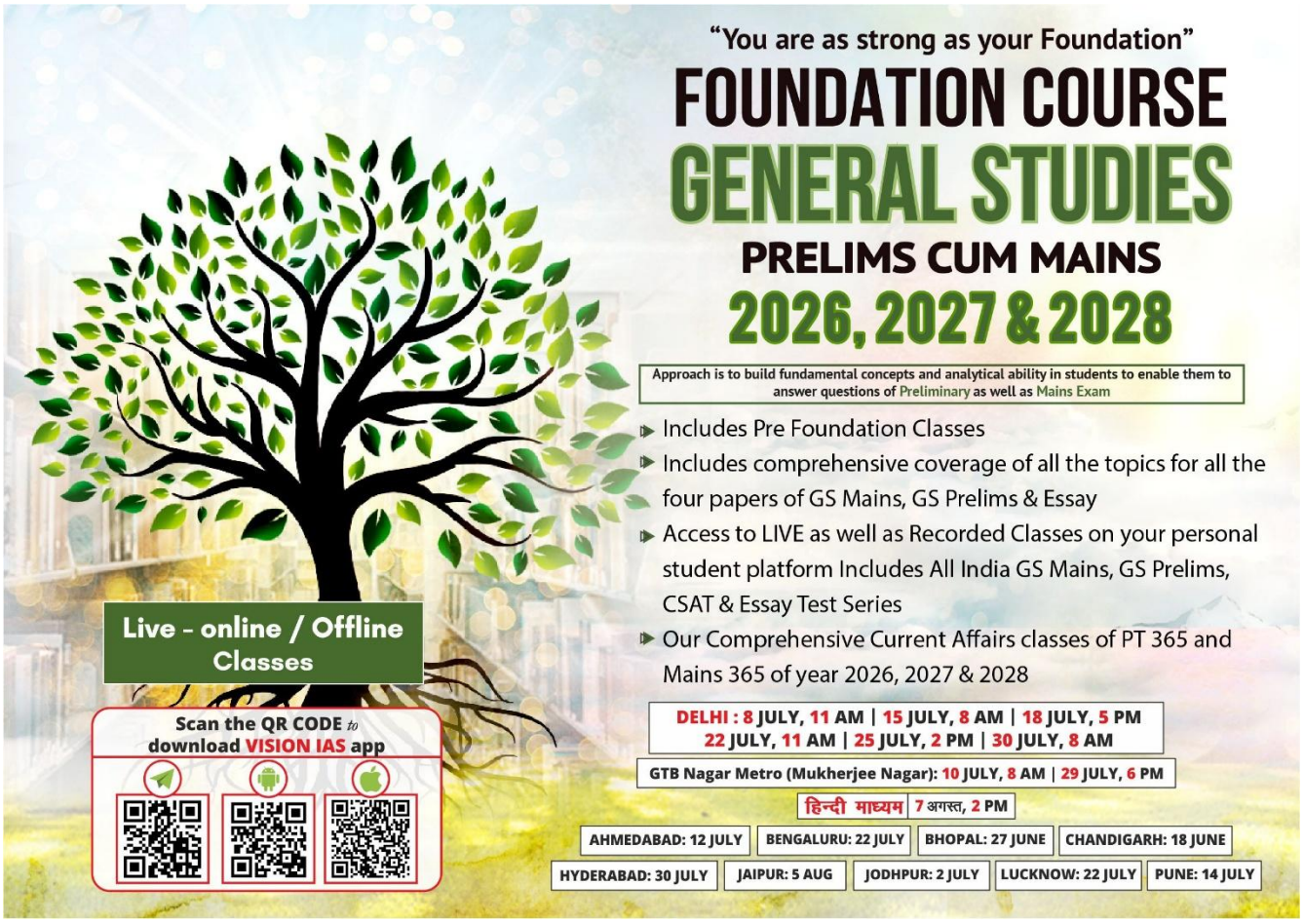
Cultural Diplomacy	5-S Approach	Multidirectional alignment	Gujral Doctrine	Commercial Space Diplomacy
Post-War Multilateralism	Global Polycrisis	Agenda-Specific Alliances	Shift to Multipolarity	Strategic Self-Help
Deglobalization	Minilaterals	Multi-Alignment	Voice of the Global South	Exclusionary Bloc Politics

Triangular Cooperation	geo-economic fragmentation	Friendshoring	Trade Weaponization	4Cs - Care, Connect, Celebrate & Contribute
Multiculturalism	China-Plus-One Strategy	Cyber-Nuclear Risks		

Answer Canvas

Q. In the wake of Global Polycrisis around the world, discuss various factors responsible for New World Order. Analyze the opportunities and challenges for India in an Emerging World Order.

Introduction	Body Part: 1	Body part: 2	Way Forward	Conclusion
Define key word Global Polycrisis	Discuss New World order and various factors responsible for it.	Discuss opportunities and challenges for India of new world order.	Steps to adopt new world order by India.	Overall importance of new world order in global context.



2. REGIONAL, AND GLOBAL GROUPING AND AGREEMENTS INVOLVING INDIA AND/OR AFFECTING INDIA'S INTEREST

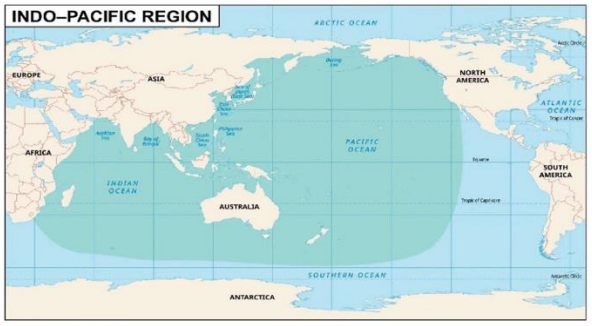
2.1. INDIA-INDO PACIFIC AT A GLANCE

India–Indo Pacific

"Only those whose mindsets are built around spheres of influence and who are uncomfortable with the democratization of world affairs will dispute the Indo-Pacific today"– **India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) on India's Vision of the Indo-Pacific**

About Indo Pacific (IP)

- **50% of the Global Trade** and **40% of Oil** passes through IP.
- **India's 90%** trade and **80% critical freight.**
- **Indo-Pacific region:** focal point of US-China great power rivalry.
- **Major powers** like US, Japan, ASEAN **prioritize Indo-Pacific in policies.**



Definition: "We consider Indo-Pacific as a region that extends from the Eastern shores of Africa to the Western shores of America." – **India's External Affairs Minister.**

India's Indo–Pacific (IP) Vision and its elements

Advocates for a **free, open, and inclusive region.**	Places **Southeast Asia and ASEAN** at the center of IP.	Supports a **common rules-based order** for the region and promotes dialogue over force.

India's policy towards the Indo-Pacific Region

Strengthening and preserving traditional roles in IOR such as **Security Provider** and **First Responder,** etc.	**Naval Strategy; Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)** through Institutions like- Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC).	**Initiatives:** Indo Pacific Oceans' Initiative, Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, etc.	**Foreign Policy:** Separate Indo-Pacific Division (IPD) under Ministry of External Affairs, Act East Policy, SAGAR etc.

India's interests in the IP

Expanding its presence in the region, especially in Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.	Maintain its role as a **net security provider.**	**Counter China's** hegemonic rise.

Challenges in pursuing the (IP)

Limited Naval Capacity and Lack of military bases.	Slow pace of developments of initiatives.	Lack of definitional consensus of IP.

Conclusion

The Indo-Pacific has been key in shaping global politics in the current times and India is seen as a pivotal player in this region.

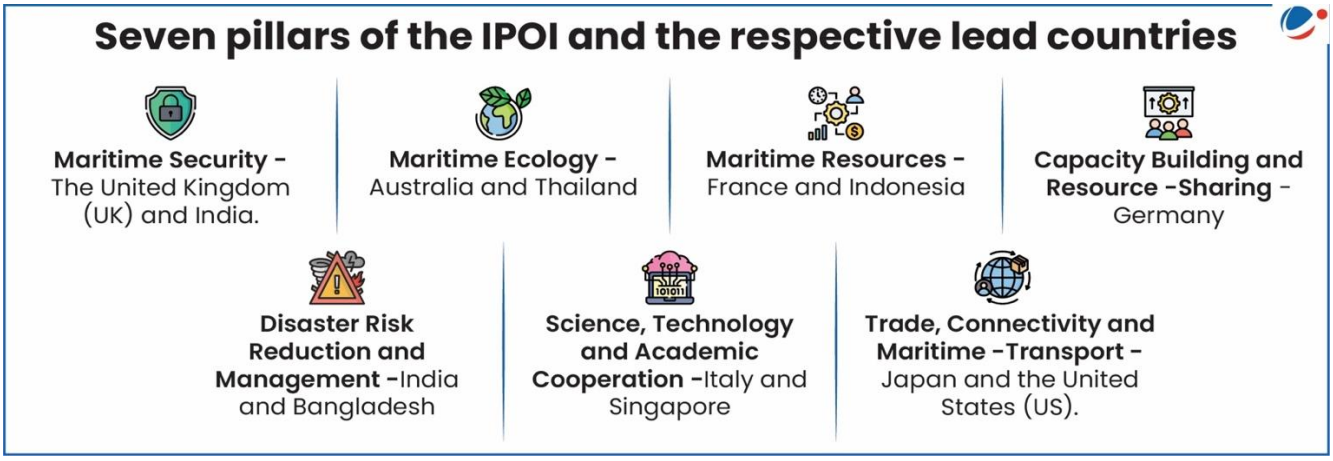
2.1.1. INDO-PACIFIC OCEANS INITIATIVE (IPOI)

Why in the News?

The Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) completes 5 years.

About the 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.**
- **Genesis:** It was launched **by India in 2019 at the East Asia Summit (EAS) in Bangkok** (Thailand).
- **Aim:** It seeks to build **a sense of community by creating new partnerships** with like-minded countries through practical cooperation.
- **Philosophy:** Builds upon India's '**Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)' initiative** of 2015.
  - SAGAR vision is to have inclusive **development joining economic assistance and maritime security concerns** on a common platform while respecting international maritime laws and norms.



Significance of the Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiative (IPOI)

- **Holistic Maritime Approach**: Expands Indo-Pacific focus beyond security to **economic, environmental, and developmental** challenges.
  - ***E.g.,*** Aligns with **ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP)** for regional synergy.
- **Countering China's Assertiveness**: Promotes **rules-based order**; counters Chinese expansionism (e.g., **India-Vietnam 2020 pact** under IPOI).
- **Maritime Security & Resource Governance**: Enhances **collaborative security** and sustainable management of **critical minerals** (lithium, rare earths).
- **Flexible & Inclusive Framework**: Non-binding structure allows adaptive responses to emerging threats.

Key Challenges

- **Institutional Gaps**: Lack of **clear agenda** for each pillar (e.g., marine ecology, security).
- **Geopolitical Resistance**: China perceives IPOI as part of **containment strategies**.
- **Resource & Regulatory Hurdles**: Limited funding and **divergent national policies** hinder joint projects.
- **Representation Deficit**: Underrepresentation of **East Africa, Gulf states, and small island nations**.

Way Forward

- **Promote Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF):** Launched jointly by the USA to strengthen economic engagement among partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region, India is vice-chair of IPEf's Supply Chain Council.
  - **It has four pillars;** Connected economy, Resilient Economy, Clean Economy, Fair economy.
- **Adopt a Shared Vision**: Draft a **5-year action plan** per pillar (e.g., maritime security, blue economy).
- **Pillar-Specific Dialogues**: Leverage **IORA, EAS** for structured regional consultations.

- **Expand Membership**: Engage **East Africa and GCC** to enhance inclusivity.
- **Annual Progress Reports**: Publish updates to ensure transparency and stakeholder alignment.

Conclusion

India's Indo-Pacific approach, an extension of its Act East policy, embraces inclusivity and freedom of navigation. It fosters partnerships with key regional players like, Japan, South Korea and Australia, while promoting a balanced, cooperative framework for all nations in the international seas.

2.2. QUAD

Why in the news?

The Prime Minister of India attended the Quad Leaders' Summit in Wilmington (US).

About Quad

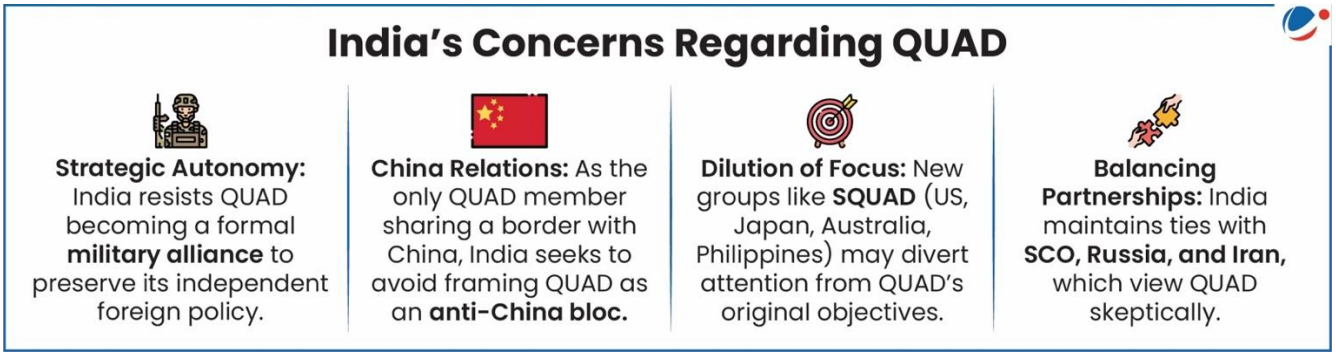
- Quad is a **Plurilateral framework of maritime democracies** and a **Global Force for Good** that delivers real, positive, and enduring impact for the Indo-Pacific.
- **Members:** Australia, India, Japan, US (diplomatic partnership, not military alliance).
- **Purpose:** Promote an open, stable Indo-Pacific.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

Significance of Quad for India

- **Strategic Balance against China**: QUAD helps India align with like-minded nations, improving security and mitigating the threat of Chinese encirclement.
- **Ensure a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region**, upholding international laws like UNCLOS.
- **Strengthening Act East Policy**: QUAD advances India's goal of deepening ties with East and Southeast Asia.
- **Military Capability Enhancement**: Defence partnerships, including the Malabar exercise 2024, strengthen India's maritime defence capabilities.
- **Technological and Economic Cooperation**: QUAD supports secure supply chains, especially in semiconductors, reducing India's reliance on China and supporting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- **Disaster response**: Helping countries including India in the region during natural calamities.

Challenges faced by the QUAD

- **Limited Institutionalization:** Operates through meetings and summits rather than a formal structure, raising questions about long-term cohesion.
- **Accusations of Cold War Mindset:** China labels QUAD an "Asian NATO", framing it as divisive rather than cooperative.
- **Diverging Priorities:**
  - India prioritizes regional security (China), while the U.S. pursues global strategic goals.
  - Australia balances economic ties with China, and Japan relies on U.S. security guarantees.
- **Identity Crisis:** Struggles to define a role distinct from ASEAN, IORA, or the Pacific Islands Forum.
- **U.S. Distractions:** Conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East risk diluting American focus on the Indo-Pacific.



Way Forward for QUAD

- **Institutionalization**: Establish a **formal secretariat** to strengthen coordination and long-term viability.
- **Complement, Not Compete**: Support—rather than replace—existing regional bodies (e.g., ASEAN, IORA) to foster **inclusive cooperation**.
- **Expand Partnerships**: Engage non-Quad Indo-Pacific nations (e.g., Vietnam, Indonesia) on shared priorities like **climate resilience** and **maritime security**.
- **Strategic Ambiguity**: Focus on **non-traditional security** (health, infrastructure) to avoid provoking China while advancing shared interests.

Conclusion

The Quad emerges as the **Indo-Pacific's democratic anchor—delivering vaccines, securing seas & building tech resilience.** Yet without institutional teeth & ASEAN synergy, **this 'Asian NATO' risks** remaining a reactive force in China's strategic backyard.

2.3. AUKUS

AUKUS

AUKUS, **a trilateral security partnership** has entered its fifth year.

About AUKUS (Genesis: 2021)

Nature: A trilateral strategic defence alliance between Australia, the UK, and the US.

Pillars of AUKUS:
- **Pillar I** – UK and US are assisting Australia in acquiring nuclear-powered submarines.
- **Pillar II** – Focuses on joint development of cyber capabilities, AI, quantum technologies, etc.

Framework: AUKUS serves as a platform for advancing defence technologies.

Implications of AUKUS in the Indo-Pacific

Strategic Implications for Indo-Pacific: Supports the vision of a free, open, resilient, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

US Commitment: Signals a renewed US push for security in the Indo-Pacific region.

UK's Role: Re-establishes the UK's strategic footprint and long-term role in Indo-Pacific security.

Concerns Related to AUKUS

Lack of Clarity: AUKUS lacks clear narratives and a defined strategic purpose.

Regional Tensions: China's opposition to AUKUS may escalate tensions in the Indo-Pacific.

The United States is sharing coveted technology with one Quad partner but not another.

AUKUS vs. Quad

AUKUS:
- Prioritizes defence technology partnerships.
- Areas of cooperation limited to defence tech.

Quad:
- A broader strategic cooperation framework involving the US, Australia, India, and Japan.
- Focused on a free, open, prosperous, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

India and AUKUS

Importance for India:
- **Complements the Quad:** Strengthens the Quad's ability to address China as a common challenge.
- **Strategic Collaboration:** Opens opportunities for collaboration with France and deeper trust with European nations. E.g., India-France-UAE (2023)

Concerns for India:
- **Regional Influence:** Potential erosion of India's influence in the Eastern Indian Ocean due to the presence of nuclear attack submarines.
- **India's broader Indo-Pacific** view **clashes** with the **U.S.'s narrower** definition, excluding Africa and Middle East.

Conclusion

AUKUS highlights some of the dilemmas that India faces with regard to the Quad: whether to **share or pass** the burden to contain **China in the Indo-Pacific** and whether to **commit** to even **greater reliance on the United States as its defense partner.**

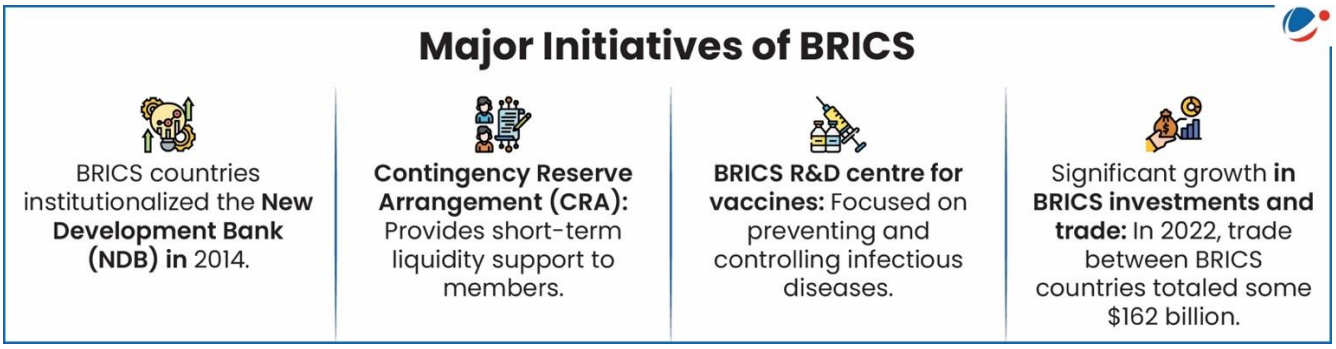
2.4. EXPANSION OF BRICS

Why in the news?

16h BRICS Summit, and the First Summit with expanded BRICS membership was held in Kazan (Russia).

Significance of BRICS Expansion

- **Shaping a multipolar world:** BRICS offers a subtle shift towards a world order where middle powers are increasingly assuming central roles.
- **Expand global's footprint:** By including the Middle East, Africa, and South America, BRICS further enhances its global footprint.
- **Increased influence in the global economy:** BRICS has surpassed the G7 countries in terms of purchasing power parity.
  - The addition of Egypt and Ethiopia from the African continent will further lead to global economic inclusivity.



Issues in Expansion of BRICS

- **Different levels of development** as the added BRICS countries differ significantly in terms of economic development.
- **Geopolitical:** many countries view expansion as China's move to increase its sphere of influence by bringing in more like-minded countries.
- **Vast internal differences among members**: The grouping has mix of democratic and authoritarian regimes.
- **Approach towards institutional reforms** such as at UNSC remains more declaratory in nature.

Way Forward

- **Setting up of a permanent secretariat** with its expanded membership.
- **Collective stand against trade protectionism**, increase investments and share a global political agenda.
- **Socioeconomic convergence** among the existing member countries.
- **Following bottom-up approach** can lead to increase in participation of private sector and citizen involvement.
  - **It can include single BRICS visa**, increased collaboration among researchers etc.
- **Push for much enhanced multilateral efforts** by furthering its deep connects with the Global South and send a global message of unity and not of polarisation.
- **Further expansion of objectives** such as creation of a BRICS Space Exploration Consortium, establishing a repository of traditional medicine etc.

Conclusion

BRICS represents a significant shift toward multipolar global governance, bringing together major emerging economies. Despite internal contradictions and diverse interests among members, the organization offers alternative financing, economic, political mechanisms and South-South cooperation.

2.5. SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (SCO)

Why in the News?

India recently declined to sign the joint declaration at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in Qingdao, China, leading to the meeting concluding without a consensus.

Key Reasons for India's Refusal

- **Selective Condemnation of Terrorism**: The document omitted mention of the Pahalgam terror attack but included references to Balochistan.
  - India stressed that SCO must not avoid criticizing states sponsoring cross-border terrorism.
- **Non-Negotiable Stance on Terrorism**: India maintains that peace and terrorism cannot coexist, a principle it upholds firmly in multilateral forums.

India's Strategic Opportunities in SCO

- **Engaging Central Asia**: SCO aids India's Connect Central Asia Policy.
- **Economic & Energy Cooperation**: Access to resources like Kazakh uranium.
- **Regional Connectivity**: Support for initiatives like the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- **Diplomatic Channel**: Maintains dialogue with Pakistan and China despite tensions.

India's Concerns Regarding SCO

- **China's Dominance**: SCO risks becoming a China-centric platform, promoting initiatives like BRI.
- **Expansion Issues**: New members (e.g., Belarus) dilute its regional focus.
- **Limited Effectiveness**: Decisions lack enforceability, resembling a discussion forum like NAM.
- **Anti-Western Perception**: SCO is sometimes seen as a bloc opposing Western influence.

India's Balancing Act in SCO

- **Protecting National Interests**: Refused to endorse BRI at the 2023 SCO summit.
- **Selective Engagement**: Cooperates on counter-terrorism via SCO-RATS.
- **Development Focus**: Promotes non-political agendas like traditional medicine and startups.
- **Leveraging Russia Ties**: Aligns with Russia on key SCO agendas.

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.
- **Alternative to Western Forums**: Presents a non-Western multilateral model.
- **Security Role**: Addresses Afghanistan's security vacuum post-NATO withdrawal.

Conclusion

India views the SCO as a vital platform for regional engagement in Central Asia, but remains cautious of its China-centric tilt. India seeks to reconfigure SCO into a development-focused entity rather than one with an anti-Western agenda. India's balanced approach allows meaningful participation without compromising core values.

2.6. ASEAN AT A GLANCE

ASEAN

"I believe that the 21st century is the "Asian Century," a century for India and ASEAN countries."
PM Shri Narendra Modi

Importance of ASEAN for India

ASEAN is India's 4th **largest trading partner** (bilateral trade being $ 122.67 Billion 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: E.g.** Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Project	**Secure critical maritime routes** including the **Malacca Strait**	**Soft power and goodwill: E.g.** Tourism and education

Significance of ASEAN in the Indo-pacific region

Geopolitical and economic centrality	Rules-based order	Balancing great power rivalry (US and China)	Connectivity (e.g. Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025)

Challenges in India-ASEAN relationship

Economic concerns: E.g. India's decision to walk out of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)	**Trade deficit for India:** increased to $ 43.57 billion in 2022-23.	**Increasing Chinese influence:** E.g. Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)	**Increasing Chinese influence**: E.g. Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

Way ahead to strengthen the relationship

Implementation of 10-Point plan for India-Asean Relations.	Update and expand **ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**	Initiate an **'Indo-Pacific Maritime partnership'** to counterbalance China.	Ensure **Code of Conduct (CoC)** for Navigation for maritime **engagement in South China Sea.**	**Complete key connectivity projects (e.g.,** India-Myanmar-Thail and Trilateral Highway).

Conclusion

India's **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)** and **ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)** emphasize **peace, cooperation, and sustainable development,** reinforcing India-ASEAN collaboration for a **free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.**

2.7. SAARC

SAARC

- The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation **(SAARC),** established **in 1985,** comprises **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka.**

Reasons for SAARC's Failures

Last SAARC biennial summit was hosted by Nepal in 2014.	**The 2016 summit (to be hosted by Pakistan) was stalled** following the terror attack in Pulwama.	**Pakistan's fixation:** Pakistan's collaboration with China on CPEC (disregarding India's territorial sovereignty), its state-sponsored terrorism, etc.	**Big Brother perception:** Fear of India's hegemony in political and economic sphere of SAARC.	**Structural issues:** Bilateral and contentious issues are excluded and there is no arrangement for resolving disputes or mediating conflicts.	**Unanimous decision-making** (posing a difficulty in decision making).

Why SAARC Needs Revival?

Dealing with Common Issues: Major issues include climate change, food and energy security, poverty, etc.	**Common policy needs:** South Asia is highly vulnerable to climate shocks while also being home to world's large population living in relative poverty.	**Huge Untapped Intraregional Trade Potential:** Intraregional trade in South Asia is just 5% of its total trade, compared to 25% in ASEAN.	**Past Success:** These include South Asia Free Trade Agreement, SAARC Development Fund, SAARC regional centres on agriculture, energy, etc.

Way Forward

Revitalize engagement through issue-based cooperation (e.g., health, climate, disaster relief).	**Promote regional connectivity via** sub-regional groupings like BBIN.	**Address Pakistan-led deadlocks** by focusing SAARC minus Pakistan initiatives.	**Cultural Ties:** Promote shared heritage. Leverage soft power and people-to-people ties.	**Encourage economic integration** through trade facilitation.

Conclusion

While India continues to support SAARC with launch of South Asian Satellite, establishment of South Asian University etc., it has also been focusing on interregional cooperation initiatives including BIMSTEC and 'Act East Policy'.

2.8. BIMSTEC

Why in the News?

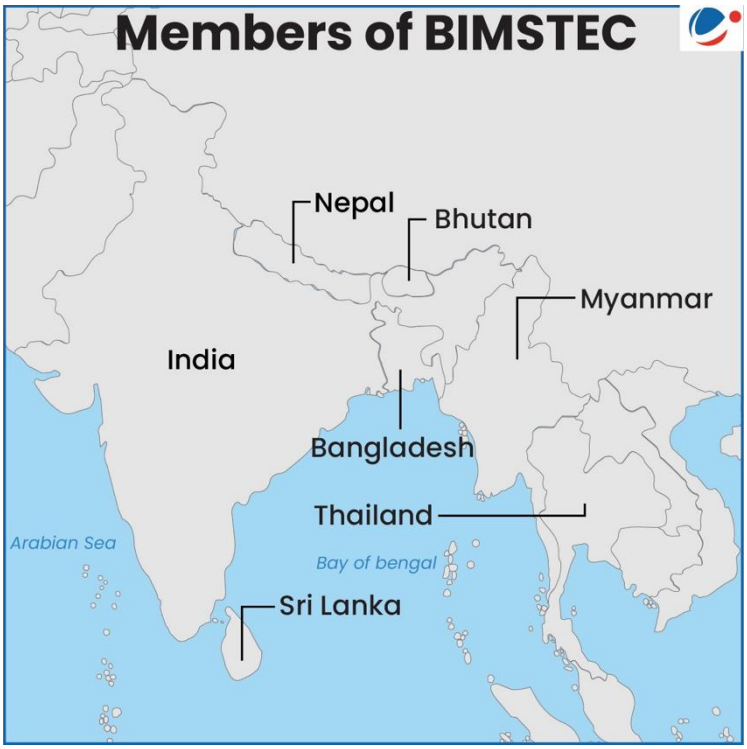
6th BIMSTEC Summit was held in **Bangkok** under **Thailand's chairmanship**.

Major India-Led Initiatives launched at 6th BIMSTEC Summit

- **BODHI (BIMSTEC for Organized Development of Human Resource Infrastructure) Initiative**: **Skilling youth** via **training** and **scholarships** for professionals, students, researchers.
- **Digital Public Infrastructure**: India to conduct a **pilot study** on its regional feasibility.
- **Other Key Outcomes**
  - **BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision 2030**: First strategic vision to build **"PRO BIMSTEC"—Prosperous, Resilient, Open**—focusing on **economic integration**, **connectivity**, and **human security**.

- **Maritime Transport Cooperation Agreement**: Signed to enhance **regional maritime connectivity**.

About 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

How BIMSTEC can help realize India's foreign policy objectives?

- **SAARC's Alternative**: Excludes **Pakistan**, functional amid **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation**'s deadlock.
- **Aligned with India's Foreign Policy**: Aids initiatives like **Act East**, **Neighbourhood First**, **Indo-Pacific**, and **QUAD** goals.
- **Strategic Bridge**: Connects **South** & **Southeast Asia** via **Thailand & Myanmar.**
- **Blue Economy & Maritime Security**: Supports **Bay of Bengal**, **anti-piracy**, **disaster relief**, aligned with **SAGAR/MAHASAGAR.**
- **South Asian Integration**: Promotes **connectivity** via **BIMSTEC Master Plan.**

Issues with BIMSTEC

- **Slow Progress**: Charter adopted after **27 years**; Just 6 summits, including the current one, have been held in the last 27 years.
- **Geopolitical Challenges**: All BIMSTEC member countries except India and Bhutan are part of BRI projects.
- **Low Intra-Regional Trade**: **6–7% trade share** within BIMSTEC.
  - **BIMSTEC FTA,** initiated in 2004, remains unimplemented.
- **Infrastructural and Connectivity Gaps**: Delays in India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway, and Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement.
- **Political Instability**: E.g. Crises in **Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka**.
- **Strained Member Relations**: Tensions like **Bangladesh–Myanmar (Rohingya)** and **India–Nepal border** affect **trust.**

Conclusion

BIMSTEC strengthens India's regional leadership by connectivity, trade, and security with Southeast Asia. It aligns with India's Act East and Neighbourhood First policies; promoting India's vision of a secure, prosperous Indo-Pacific. **It also** serves as a **practical platform** for advancing **India's regional goals** beyond **SAARC's constraints**.

2.9. INDIA-MIDDLE EAST-EUROPE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

Why in the News?

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) has experienced both progress and challenges one year after its announcement.

About IMEC

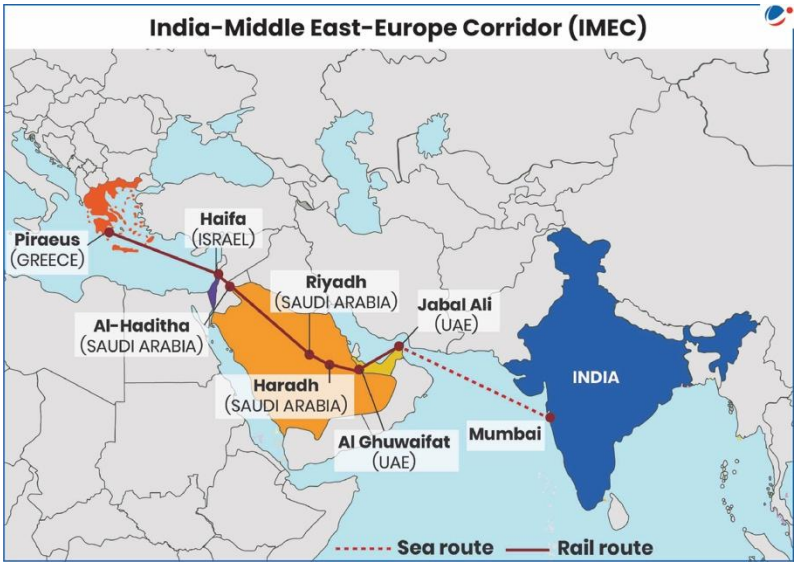
- Established through a MoU at the **2023 G20 Summit in New Delhi.**
- Aims to develop **multi-modal connectivity infrastructure.**
- **Consists of two corridors:** Eastern (India to Gulf) and Northern (Gulf to Europe).
- Part of the **Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII**).

Status of Implementation

- Progress in UAE-Israel railway network and **Haifa port expansion.**
- **Limited advancement** in clean energy, fiber-optic cables, and energy grid projects.
- Development of trade processes like **Virtual Trade Corridor (VTC).**
- **Open for expansion** to other regional countries.

Significance for India

- **Strengthens Indo-Gulf relations.**
- **Promotes economic growth** through trade and investment.
- **Reduces shipment time** to Europe by 40% and costs by 30%.
- **Advances India's global power aspirations** by connecting EU and GCC with enhanced connectivity.
- Reduces reliance on **maritime chokepoints**, **encourages peace** and **Offers alternative to China's BRI**.



Challenges

- **High costs** due to multi-modal nature and underdeveloped manufacturing
- **Limited geographical coverage** excluding key regional economies
- **Regional instability** (Israel-Hamas war, Houthi rebels)
- Lack of clear **financial commitments and Arab-Israel relations** affecting development.

Conclusion

The IMEC marks a **strategic shift in Eurasian connectivity**, offering **India 40% faster Europe** access while **countering BRI's dominance**. Though stalled by **regional conflicts** and **funding gaps**, its success hinges on **stabilizing West Asia** and **securing concrete investments** to transform **MoUs into infrastructure.**

2.10. G20 SUMMIT

Why in the News?

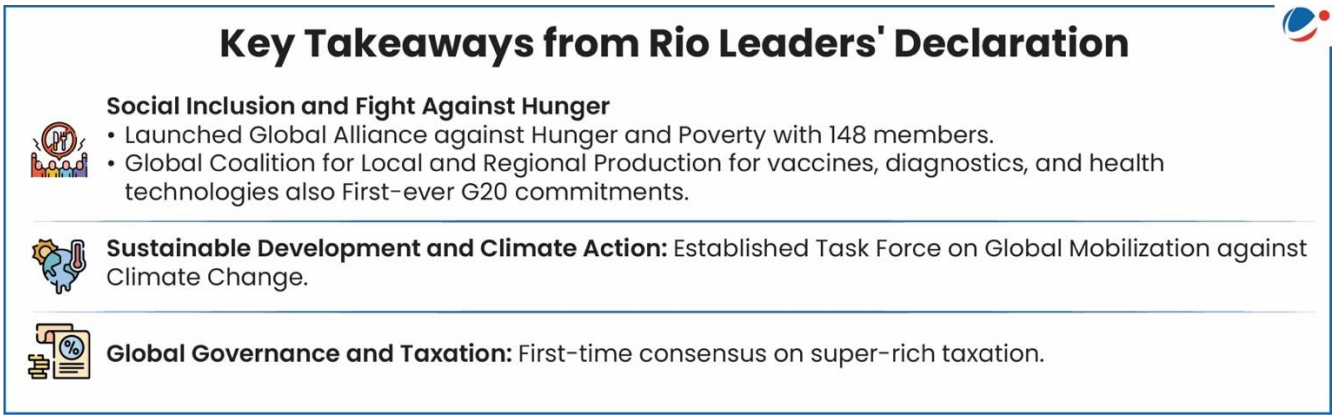
The 18th G20 Summit was held in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,** under the theme **Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet.**

About G20

- Founded in **1999**, following the **Asian financial crisis.**
- **Annual summit: G20** Summit held **annually,** under the **leadership of a rotating Presidency**.
- **Members: G7** (France, Canada, Italy, Japan, Germany, United States of America, United Kingdom) **+** African Union, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Russia, China, European Union, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, South Korea, South Africa.

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).
- **Future host:** South Africa, completing a significant Global South troika, Brazil, India & South Africa represents Global South and is part of both IBSA and BRICS.



G20's importance for India

- **Global Leadership and Diplomacy:** First-ever G20 Summit in India in 2023, demonstrating its growing diplomatic clout and leadership.
- **Influencing Global Policy:** Voice for the Global South as India ensured the induction of the African Union as a permanent member, championing issues of developing countries and global equity.
- **Economic significance:** Collectively account for approximately 85% of the world's GDP and 75% of international trade.
- **Foreign Investment & Trade:** The G20 summit and parallel initiatives like the IMEC are expected to draw increased trade and economic growth for India.
- **Tourism and Soft Power**: Leveraged G20 events across India to boost domestic tourism and showcase India's culture and heritage.

Limitations of G20

- **Representational Issues:** Controversy over "G21" naming after AU inclusion**,** Notable absences such as Russian President, Saudi Crown Prince**,** Diplomatic fragmentation affecting unity.
- **Policy Disagreements:** Argentina's opposition to sustainable development**,** Major economies resisting wealth tax **and** Progressive taxation proposals face resistance.
- **Structural Weaknesses:** Non-binding nature of decisions**,** Absence of formal charter**,** Growing competition from BRICS and SCO**,** Limited progress on climate goals despite COP29 timing.
- **No Permanent Secretariat:** Also need Clear **Division of Labour between G7 and G20.**

Conclusion

The G20 is crucial for India as a platform to shape global economic policies, champion the Global South, and push for reforms in global governance. It help strengthening India's voice on trade, climate action, digital public infrastructure, and inclusive growth amplifying its global leadership role.

2.11. G7 AT A GLANCE

Group of 7 [G7]

The G7 is an **informal bloc of industrialized democracies—the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom (UK).**

Geopolitical Relevance of the G7 in the Contemporary World

Global Security and Conflict Response: G7 coordinated sanctions on Russia and financed Ukraine using frozen Russian assets.	**Steering Group for Global Governance: E.g.,** Supports **OECD/G20 framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting** & established **FATF.**	**Forum for Democratic Powers:** Acts as a core alliance for the **'rules-based order',** countering autocratic states like China and Russia.	**Sustainable & Digital Governance Leadership:** Leads ethical AI efforts via GPAI & Hiroshima AI Process.	**Global South Engagement:** Collaborates with India, South Africa, Brazil, etc.,

Geopolitical and Institutional Hurdles for the G7

Declining Economic Dominance: G7's global GDP share dropped from **~70% (1980s) to ~44% (2021)**	**Consensus Hurdles:** Varied national interests stall unified responses.	**Lack of Legal Authority:** Informal structure, no enforcement mechanism.	**No Joint Communiqué (2025):** Deep policy rifts, especially with US, led to this unusual omission.	**Global South Underrepresentation:** Absence of key players like India, Brazil, Nigeria, limits G7's legitimacy.

India's Strategic Interests at the G7

Balancing West & Global South: India projects itself as a bridge— **"southwest country"** (Dr. Jaishankar).	**Tightrope Diplomacy:** Maintains autonomy; abstained from criticizing US in BRICS or opposing **Russia in G7.**	**Global Power Aspiration:** India's G7 outreach aligns with Indo-Pacific focus and **MAHASAGAR Doctrine.**	**Democracy & Growth:** India's status as a democracy and **4th largest** economy boosts its influence.	**Bilateral Reset via G7:** Canada's 2025 invitation to India helped thaw strained ties.

Conclusion

The G7 summit provides a **forum for member countries to discuss shared values and concerns.** While it initially focused on **international economic policy, in the 1980s,** the G7 extended its **mandate to include issues related to foreign policy and security as well.**

2.12. NATO

NATO

NATO leaders meeting in **The Hague** agreed to raise **defence spending to 5 per cent of their countries' economic output by 2025.**

Recent Developments

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).

NATO's Eastern Expansion: Finland joined NATO in 2023, followed by Sweden in 2024, strengthening the alliance's presence in Northern Europe.

- Also, in 2022, **Ukraine applied for NATO membership** after Russia's Invasion of Ukraine.

Implications of East ward expansion of NATO

Heightened Russia-West Tensions: NATO's eastward expansion fuels Russian distrust, pushing it closer to China and Iran in an anti-Western alliance.	**Regional Militarization:** New members divert funds to military integration, reversing demilitarization trends.	**Deepened European Divisions:** Increase economic (North-South) and geopolitical (East-West) splits among European Nations.	**Escalated Security Concerns:** Russia perceives NATO growth as destabilizing, raising risks of conflict.

NATO's Expansion and Its Impact on India's Interests

Geopolitical Alignment: A stronger NATO aligns with India's interests in the Indo-Pacific region.	**Common Values:** Closer ties with NATO reinforce India's commitment to democratic principles.	NATO's expansion **counters China's influence,** aligning with India's strategic interests.	**India's Counterterrorism Efforts** aligned with NATO's **'Enhanced Readiness Against Transnational Terrorism'**.

Way Forward to India-NATO Relations

Strengthening QUAD Cooperation: Through joint exercises, policies, and intelligence sharing to ensure a free, open Indo-Pacific.	**Alignment with NATO's Strategic Concept 2022:** India's interests align with NATO 2022 on freedom of navigation, cybersecurity, and climate risks.	**Collaboration with NATO's Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme:** In science, innovation, and emerging tech.	**Space as a Strategic Frontier** India's space program complements NATO's 2024 focus on multi-domain space operations via the NATO Space Symposium initiative.

Conclusion

India must balance **NATO engagement** with **strategic autonomy** to **shape Indo-Pacific stability, power balance, and broader diplomatic-security objectives.**

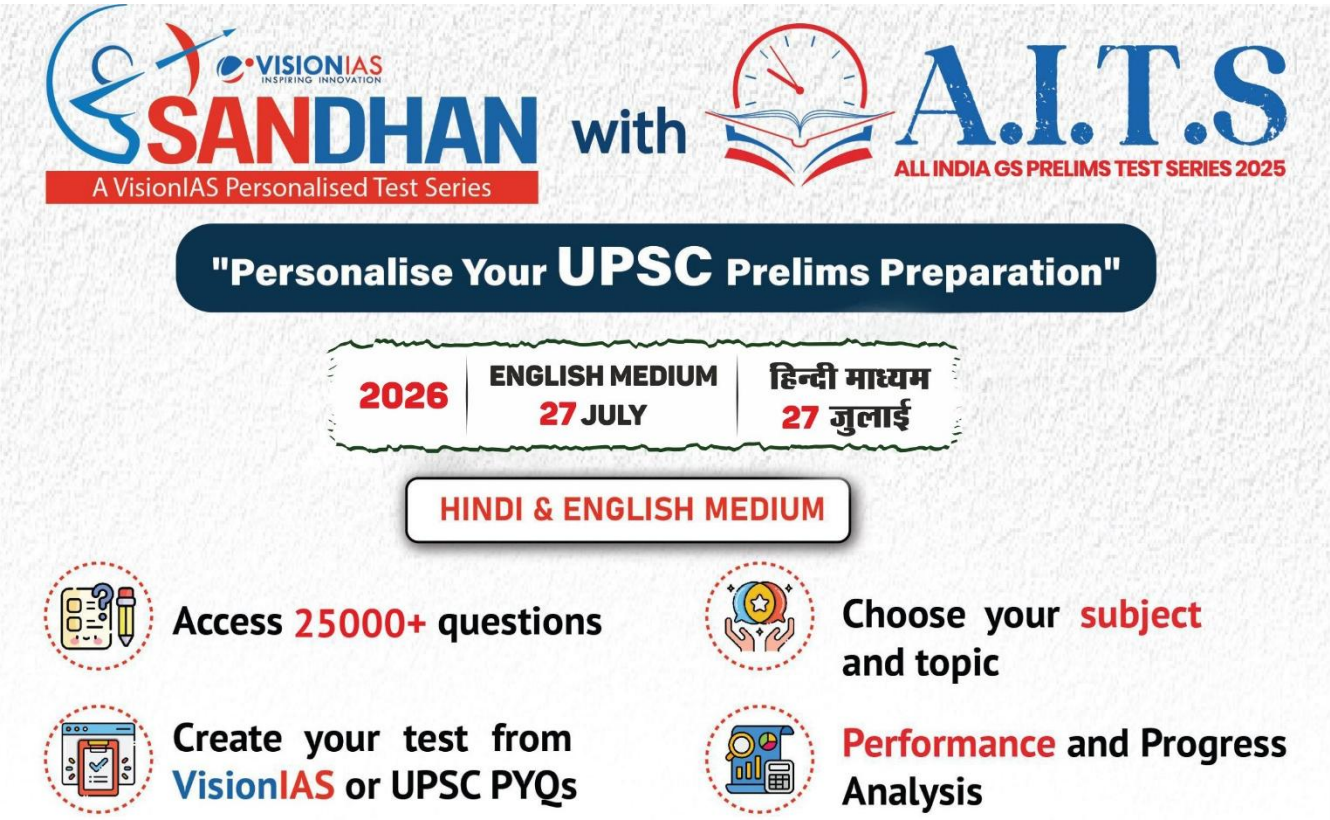
2.13. KEYWORDS

ASEAN Centrality	Soft power	de-dollarization	Socioeconomic convergence	bottom-up approach
democratization of world affairs	net security provider	Rules-based order	Resource Governance	multi-modal connectivity
Virtual Trade Corridor	Big Brother perception	Plurilateral framework	Asian NATO	Strategic Autonomy
asymmetrical multipolarity	Tightrope Diplomacy	Strategic Encirclement		

Answer Canvas

Q. What are the options available to India to counter China's Belt and Road initiative threatening India's strategic autonomy? In this regard explain the importance of India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) for India.

Introduction	Body Part: 1	Body part: 2	Conclusion
Give information of IMEC and BRI in 2-3 lines.	Options available to India to counter China's Belt and Road initiative.	Importance of India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) for India	Importance of strategic autonomy while promoting regional growth in South Asia.



3. INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD RELATIONS

3.1. INDIA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST POLICY

Why in the News?

India's Neighbourhood First policy has completed a decade.

About India's Neighbourhood First Policy (NFP)

- **Genesis: Launched in 2008**, intensified post-2014.
- **Objective**: Strengthen ties with immediate neighbors, **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka**.
- **Guiding Principles**: **5S Framework** (Samman, Samvad, Shanti, Samriddhi, Sanskriti) with a **non-reciprocal, outcome-oriented approach**.

Key Aspects of NFP

- **Economic & Connectivity Boost:** E.g., **Bangladesh**: Mongla seaport access (2024) cuts costs for NE India.
- **High-Level Diplomatic Outreach:** E.g., **Nepal**: PM Modi's 2014 visit (first in 17 years).
- **Development Projects & Aid:** E.g., **Maldives**: Greater Malé Connectivity Project.
- **Energy Cooperation:** E.g., **Bangladesh-Nepal-India** tripartite power trade.
- **Countering China's Influence:** E.g., **Maldives**: Financial aid vs. China's debt-trap diplomacy.
- **Humanitarian Leadership:** E.g., **Vaccine Maitri** (Bhutan, Maldives first recipients).

Importance of India's Neighbourhood (South Asia)

- **Economic Integration:** South Asia's 5% intraregional trade offers India a leadership role.
- **Infrastructure:** South Asia helps India counter China economically and strategically.
- **Cultural Influence:** Shared history boosts people-to-people ties and soft power.
- **Security:** Stable South Asia ensures India's internal security.
- **Investment in connectivity projects:** Like Akhaura-Agartala rail link through Bangladesh, INSTC in Afghanistan.

Challenges

- **Political Instability**: E.g., Myanmar coup, Bangladesh unrest, Maldives' pro-China shift, Takeover of Taliban in 2021.
- **Perceived "Big Brother" Attitude**: E.g., 2015 Nepal blockade backlash.
- **Project Delays**: E.g., Malé bridge delays fueled anti-India sentiment.
- **Unresolved Disputes**: Teesta River (Bangladesh), Kalapani (Nepal).
- **China's BRI Expansion**: Hambantota Port (Sri Lanka), BRI inroads in Nepal, Bangladesh.
- **Economic crisis:** In 2022, Economic crisis triggered political instability and public unrest.
- **Illegal migration and forced displacement:** From Sri Lanka and Bangladesh due to economic and political instability.

Way Forward (5S Approach)

- **Samman (Respect): emphasis on neighbours through** 'Neighbourhood First doctrine'**.**
- **Samvad (Dialogue):** Engage in Track 2 diplomacy.
- **Sahyog (Cooperation):** Assist neighbours during the time of crisis.
- **Shanti (Peace):** India's core principle towards resolving neighbourly disputes.
- **Samriddhi (Prosperity):** Through intra-regional trade and infrastructure connectivity.

Conclusion

"A polity like India should display the wisdom of treating its prosperity as a lifting tide for the entire region.

That means assigning a higher degree of attention and greater resources, a policy captured by Neighbourhood First." **- S. Jaishankar in his book, 'The India Way'.**

3.2. INDIA-75 YEARS OF INDIA-CHINA RELATIONS

Why in the News?

China's President proposed **"Dragon–Elephant tango" to mark 75 years of ties.**

More on the News

- **Dragon-Elephant Tango"** is used to describe a vision of **peaceful and cooperative relations** between **China** and **India**.
- **Dragon** represents **China** and **Elephant** represents **India**.

Significance of Stable Relations

- **Regional Peace**: Reduces **border tensions**, enables **development focus** across **South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region.**
- **Indo-Pacific Prosperity**: Lowers **strategic friction**, supports **regional cooperation.**
- **Trade & Investment**: **E.g.,** China supplies **Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs**), invests in **Indian startups**
- China is largest trade partner ($118.4 bn).
- **Access to Resources**: China dominates **rare-earths**, key for **tech & solar goals.**
- **Global Influence**: Collaboration in **BRICS**, **SCO**, and calls for reforms in **WTO**, **IMF**, and **UN**.
- **Countering Global Challenges**: Joint action on **climate**, **health**, and **energy issues.**

Key concerns in India-China Relations

- **Unsettled Borders**: Disputes along 3,488 km LAC led to clashes. **E.g.,** Doklam (2017), Galwan (2020)
- **Trade Imbalance**: Trade deficit Rose **to $85 bn (2023-24)**
- **Dependent on China** for Semiconductors, Pharma APIs etc.
- **China–Pakistan Nexus**: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through PoK, violates sovereignty
- **Assertiveness**: **String of Pearls- presence** (see below) in Maldives, Sri Lanka, South China Sea
- **Water Power**: China controls rivers to northeast; built dams like **Zangmu, Jiacha**, etc.
- **Strategic arc around the India: China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh Nexus** held their first trilateral meeting signalling Beijing's growing influence in India's neighbourhood.
  - China's earlier trilateral engagement with **Pakistan and Afghanistan**, reinforcing a strategic arc from Afghanistan to the Bay of Bengal.
  - **Also China-Turkey-Pakistan nexus**, evident during the **Pahalgam crisis**, challenging India's regional dominance.

Way Forward

- **Diplomatic Engagements**: **For instance**, use **BRICS, SCO, G20, AIIB** for dialogue.
- **Mutual Respect**: Base ties on **respect, sensitivity, and interest.**
- **Strategic Balancing**: Defend **sovereignty** while engaging diplomatically.
- **Water resource management**: Enhancing cooperation on sharing hydrological data for Transboundary Rivers.
- **Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)**: Expand to **economic and cultural ties** in border areas.

China's The String of Pearls vs India's "Necklace of Diamonds" Strategy

String of Pearls	Necklace of Diamonds
• **China's Strategy:** Building commercial and military assets in IOR to secure energy routes and expand influence. • **Key Locations:** Gwadar (Pakistan), Hambantota (Sri Lanka), Chittagong (Bangladesh), Sittwe & Coco Islands (Myanmar), and a military base in Djibouti.	A multi-pronged counter-strategy that includes: • **Developing Naval Bases and Access: E.g.,** Chabahar (Iran), Oman, Changi Naval Base (Singapore). • **Regional Partnerships:** Strengthen ties via Act East, ASEAN, Quad, etc. • **Maritime Vision:** MAHASAGAR for regional security and growth

Conclusion

"Stable and peaceful relations between India and China are important for not just our two countries but the entire region and world. Positive and constructive bilateral engagement at the diplomatic and military levels, we will be able to restore and sustain peace and tranquillity in our borders." – PM Modi.

South China Sea (SCS) Dispute

- **Territorial Claims**: China claims almost the entire SCS based on historical rights dating back to the Western Han dynasty (1992 claim; marked by "nine-dash line").
- **2016 Verdict:** The Permanent Court of Arbitration ruled in favor of the Philippines, declaring China's claims legally baseless.
- **South China Sea** connects Pacific and Indian Oceans via Malacca Strait and is crucial for global shipping lanes.
  - 1/3 of global maritime trade transits through the SCS;
  - 40% of globally traded petroleum products move via this route.
  - **~50% of India's sea trade** passes through the Malacca Strait.

Why is the Conflict Escalating in the South China Sea?

- **Chinese Militarization: Building of Artificial Island (2013–15)** in the Spratly Islands**.**
- **Nationalism:** Both China and other littoral countries have used rhetoric to claim SCS by **aggressive Posturing**.
- **External Stakeholders**: **United States:** Bound by treaty to defend the Philippines in case of attack.
  - **Taiwan Factor**: A China-Taiwan escalation destabilizing the region further.

Conclusion

As China militarizes the South China Sea, threatening **$3.4 trillion in global trade**, India must safeguard its **Malacca lifeline (50% of trade**) through **Quad deterrence, ASEAN solidarity, and UNCLOS defiance**—or risk Asia's future being written in artificial islands and dashed lines.

3.2.1. CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CPEC)

Why in the News?

The foreign ministers of China, Pakistan, and Afghanistan agreed to extend the China Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan.

More on the News

- Recently, China and Pakistan signed six agreements to expedite cooperation under CPEC.

About 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.
- It serves as a link between the **Silk Road Economic Belt** and the **Maritime Silk Road**, comprising roads, railways, pipelines, and energy projects.
    - **Silk Road Economic Belt ("Belt"):** Links China to Central and South Asia and onward to Europe.
    - **New Maritime Silk Road ("Road"):** Links China to Southeast Asia, Gulf, Africa, and Europe.
- **Controversially**, CPEC passes through **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)**, specifically **Gilgit Baltistan**, infringing upon India's territorial sovereignty.

About Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

- **Launched by China in 2013,** BRI is an ambitious global infrastructure strategy covering over 150 countries across Asia, Africa, and Europe.
- Also known as **One Belt One Road (OBOR):** It comprises
    - **Silk Road Economic Belt ("Belt"):** Land route linking China to Central Asia, South Asia, and Europe.
    - **21st Century Maritime Silk Road ("Road"):** Sea route connecting China to Southeast Asia, Gulf countries, Africa, and Europe.

How CPEC's Expansion Hurts India's Interests

- **Violation of Sovereignty**: CPEC passes through Pakistan occupied Kashmir (**PoK)** without India's consent.
- **Strategic Threat**: Infrastructure turn Pakistan into a low-cost deterrent against India.
- **Security Risks**: Infrastructure may aid **terrorism, smuggling**, and other cross-border threats.
- **Extension to Afghanistan**
    - **Geo-Strategic Challenge**: Expansion may reduce India's regional influence and undermine projects like **Chabahar Port** and **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**:
    - **Strategic Encirclement**: It may strengthen a **China-Pakistan-Afghanistan axis**, diminishing India's leverage.
    - **Security Risks**: Potential use of Afghan territory (under Taliban regime) for **anti-India terror activities**.

India's Strategic Countermeasures

- **Chabahar Port**: India's strategic investment in Iran offers access to Central Asia bypassing Pakistan.
- **INSTC**: A multi-modal transport route connecting India to Europe via Iran and Russia.
- **IMEC**: Launched in 2023, enhancing connectivity between India, the Middle East, and Europe.
- **QUAD**: India, USA, Japan, and Australia collaborate for a **free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific** region.

Conclusion

CPEC's Afghan expansion threatens India's sovereignty and regional influence, turning the $62 billion corridor into a strategic noose. India must accelerate Chabahar-INSTC integration, IMEC and Quad partnerships to counterbalance China's BRI ambitions in its neighborhood.

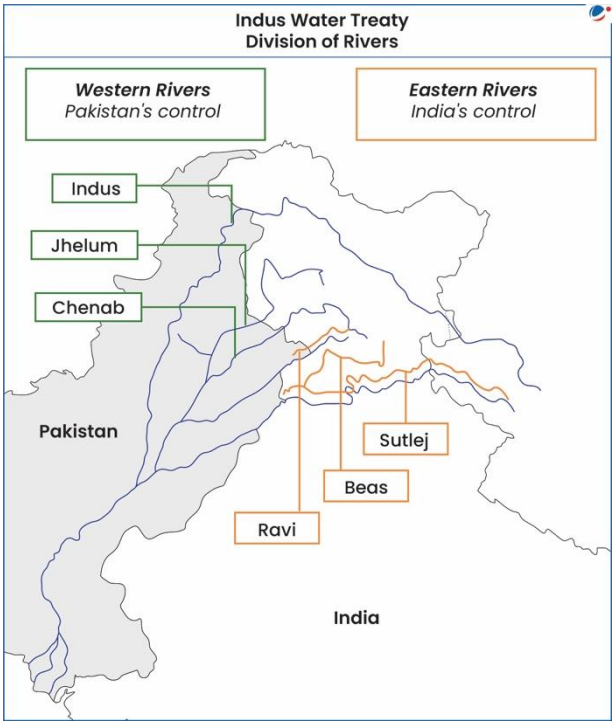
3.3. INDUS WATER TREATY

Why in the News?

India announced the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) of 1960** with Pakistan will be held **'in abeyance'** with immediate effect, until Pakistan stops its support for cross-border terrorism, after recent terror attack.

More on the news

- **Consequences for Pakistan: Food insecurity as** 80% of the Pakistan's food crops from Indus river system, reduced agricultural exports ($ 5Bn), threat of energy security.



About the Indus Waters Treaty

- **Signed**: 1960 by **India & Pakistan**, with **World Bank** as signatory.
- **Objective**: Share **Indus River system** waters
- **Division of Water**:
  - **Eastern Rivers** (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej): Full use by **India**
  - **Western Rivers** (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab): Allocated to **Pakistan**; **India** allowed **non-consumptive use, e.g.,** navigation, floating of timber or other property, etc.
  - **Article III (1)**: India must **let flow** western rivers to Pakistan.
  - **Exchange of Data**: Regular sharing on **river flow and usage**.
- **Dispute Resolution (3-Step)**:
  - **Permanent Indus Commission (PIC)** – Two commissioners; meets **annually**.
  - **Neutral Expert** – Appointed by **World Bank**, **binding decision**.
  - **Court of Arbitration (CoA)** – **7-member tribunal**, decision by **majority vote**.

Other Issues with IWT

- **Dam Objections**: Pakistan opposes **Kishanganga (Jhelum)** and **Ratle (Chenab)** projects.
- **Bypassing Dispute Steps**: On Kishanganga, Pakistan skipped **Neutral Expert** and went directly to **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)**, violating IWT procedure.
- **Biodiversity Threat**: **Shahpurkandi** and **Ujh (Ravi)** may impact **Indus dolphins**.
- **Cross border Terrorism**: Post-2016 attack, India asserted **water and blood can't flow together** as emphasised by PM modi.
- **Lack of regular data sharing**: Flow data crucial to understanding **river basin dynamics**.

Conclusion

India's use of **'abeyance'** is a **strategic message**, not treaty rejection—treaties must reflect **real-world politics** and require **credibility** from all parties to protect **India's interests**.

3.3.1. SHIMLA AGREEMENT

Why in the News?

Pakistan declared it would hold "**in abeyance**" its participation in all bilateral agreements with India, including the Simla Agreement.

Shimla Agreement

- **Background** Signed in **1972** after **India–Pakistan 1971 War**, which led to the creation of **Bangladesh**.
- **Key Provisions of the Shimla Agreement**
  - **Normalization of Relations:** The principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter shall govern the relations between the two countries.
    - The agreement outlined steps to **resume communications, trade, cultural exchanges, and people-to-people contacts.**
    - It also facilitated the **repatriation of prisoners of war and civilians** detained during the conflict, marking a humanitarian gesture.
  - **Bilateral Resolution:** To settle differences by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations or by any other peaceful means mutually agreed upon between them.
  - **Establishment of the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir:** The agreement converted the 1971 ceasefire line into the LoC.
  - **Respect for Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity:** Both sides pledged to respect each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence and refrain from interference in internal affairs.
  - **Provisions for future meetings**: Between the heads of government to further peace efforts and address unresolved issues.

Implications of the suspension of the Shimla Agreement

- **Symbolic/Diplomatic Impact**: Mostly **symbolic**, as the pact lost relevance post repeated **violations** (e.g., **Pulwama 2019**).
- **LoC Implications**: **Non-recognition** may provoke attempts to alter **status quo** (e.g., **Kargil**).
- **Regional Stability**: Undermines peace between **nuclear-armed neighbours**.
- **International Views**: May attract **criticism** and boost **India's claim** of Pakistan's **unreliability**.
- **India's Strategic Advantage**: India can pursue hard action against cross-border terrorism, revisit claims over Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), etc.

Conclusion

The **Shimla Agreement** offers a framework for **bilateralism** and **peaceful coexistence**. Its spirit can help **reset relations**, address **historical grievances**, and build **mutual trust**.

3.4. INDIA – SRI LANKA RELATIONS AT A GLANCE

India-Sri Lanka Relations

India-Sri Lanka relations are rooted in **historical, cultural, and economic ties,** with both nations prioritizing **regional stability, trade cooperation,** and addressing shared security challenges.

Significance of India- Sri Lanka Relations

India backs **Sri Lanka's BRICS bid;** Sri Lanka supports **India's UNSC seat (2028–29).**	Joint focus in **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** on traditional & non-traditional threats.	Active in **Commonwealth, IORA,** and **BIMSTEC**	Joint exercises – **SLINEX (Navy), MITRA SHAKTI (Army);** joins **MILAN**

Economic Importance of India for Sri Lanka

Financial Aid: India extended **$4 bn aid (2022–23);** supported **Kankesanthurai Port**	**IMF Bailout:** India's **early assurance** enabled **$2.9 bn IMF package (2023).**	India is largest trade partner, top FDI contributor, & largest source of tourists.

Irritants in India-Sri Lanka Relations

Chinese Influence: Strategic concerns over Chinese projects like Hambantota.	**Fishermen Disputes:** Sri Lanka opposes **bottom trawling.** Also, there is territorial dispute over **Kachchatheevu Island.**	**Tamil Ethnic Issue:** Delay in **13th Amendment** (linked to **1987 Indo-Lanka Accord**) sparks political friction.

Way Forward

Five "S" Approach: Samman (Respect), Samvad (Dialogue), Sahyog (Cooperation), and Shanti (Peace); to create conditions for universal Samriddhi (Prosperity).	**Constructive Engagement:** Bilateral mechanism for **fishermen;** Implement **13th Amendment** through dialogue.	**Soft Power & Culture:** Jointly develop **Buddhist Circuit, Ramayana Trail** using tech & diaspora.

Conclusion

"Blood is thicker than water". It was natural for India to see what it could do to stand by Sri Lanka at this very difficult time. **EAM. S. Jaishankar in the context of the recent** Economic crisis.

3.5. SHIFT IN INDIA–AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS

Why in the news?

Recently, **1st bilateral meeting between India's foreign secretary and Afghanistan's acting foreign minister** took place in Dubai.

More on the News

- The meet signifies **India's diplomatic shift and increased engagement** with the Taliban-led Afghan government.
- **It marks the highest-level engagement with the Taliban since their 2021 Kabul takeover post-US withdrawal.**
- **In November 2024, the first official meeting** between Indian diplomats and the Taliban's defence minister occurred in Kabul.

India - Afghan relations Post-Taliban Take-over

India has **not officially recognized Taliban,** however, it is helping Afghans through different means:

- Supplied several shipments of **humanitarian assistance consisting of wheat, medical aid and earthquake relief aid.**
- **Education:** Continued its Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarship scheme for Afghan students.
- The **Salma Dam** for agriculture, **Zaranj-Delaram** Highway for trade, transmission projects for electricity, Indian **Embassy Complex.**

Trade and commerce between both countries is ongoing, including through the Chabahar port.

India's technical team in Kabul is monitoring the status and functioning of projects built by it.

Why shift in India's diplomatic policy?

- **Deteriorating** Afghan–Pakistan relations: Pakistani airstrike on eastern Afghanistan.
- **To counter rising** Chinese influence and to prevent Afghan-soil based terrorism.
- **To strengthen** connectivity and access to Central Asia.
- **To restart** developmental projects and secure already done investments.
- **To strengthen** India's soft power and to ensure stability in the region.

Why the shift in diplomatic approach can be challenging?

- Taliban's i**nternal dynamics** especially in its treatment **towards women and girls**.
- **Terrorism and security** concerns and Drug trafficking.
- **Increasing presence of China**.

Peaceful and Stable Afghanistan is significant for Region as well as for India:

- **Regional connectivity:** Afghanistan is considered as a gateway to **Central Asian Region**
- **Security:** Reduced insurgency and cross-border terrorism can lead to a more secure environment for India's northern and western borders.
- **Energy and resources:** Stability in Afghanistan could pave the way for the Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India (TAPI) pipeline.
- **Curbing Drug trafficking:** Stable government in Afghanistan can better tackle drug trafficking.
  - Afghanistan is part of the **Death Crescent** along with Pakistan and Iran.
  - States like Punjab are highly affected by it.

Way forward

- **Act West Policy:** India should **capitalize its traditional**.
- **Humanitarian assistance: to counter China**.
- **Resuming developmental projects:** Increasing investments through developmental projects.
- **Cultural engagements:** Develop people-to-people ties through **liberalizing the visa regime**.
- **Enhanced diplomatic engagements:** At various international and multi-lateral forums.

Conclusion

India's approach to Afghanistan continues to be guided by its historical relations, friendship with its people and relevant UN resolutions. – S. Jaishankar.

3.6. INDIA-BANGLADESH RELATIONS

Why in the News?

India formally **revoked transshipment facility** for **Bangladesh exports from India.**

More on the News

- **The 2020 agreement** facilitated export of **Bangladeshi goods** through **Indian Land Customs Stations (LCSs)** to ports for destinations in **third countries in Europe, West Asia, and beyond.**
- **India cited logistical challenges** such as significant congestion at Indian ports and airports as **primary reason for revoking the agreement.**
- However, decision also follows **strained bilateral relations** and recent remarks by **Bangladesh government's Chief Advisor** that Bangladesh is **the only guardian for all in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR),** denouncing **India's role as Net Security Provider.**

Importance of Bangladesh for India:

- **Key economic partner for India**: ***T*rade reached $18 billion in 2021-22**, Bangladesh is **largest trading partner** in South Asia.
- **Crucial for facilitating connectivity to India's Northeast region: *E.g.*** *India uses ports such as Chattogram and Mongla in Bangladesh to transport goods to and from the Northeast.*
- **Plays a central to India's vision of regional connectivity: *E.g.*** *Bangladesh is a part of **BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal)** to facilitate the movement of goods and people.*
- **Bangladesh's geographic location makes it a linchpin in India's "Act East" policy. *E.g.*** *Bangladesh's participation is **crucial for BIMSTEC's success**, given its strategic position in the Bay of Bengal.*

Challenges in India-Bangladesh Relations

- **Lack of a permanent agreement** on **Teesta River water sharing**, causing bilateral tensions.
- **Growing Chinese Influence**: Bangladesh's deepening ties with China:
  - **Largest arms supplier** to Bangladesh.
  - **Joint military exercises (e.g.**, *Golden Friendship 2024*), raising strategic concerns for India.
- **Unauthorized crossings** from Bangladesh & Myanmar (Rohingya refugees) strain India's northeastern states.
- **Rising minority persecution in Bangladesh** could spill over into India, affecting regional stability.
- **Impact of India's Domestic Policies: CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act)** and **NRC (National Register of Citizens)** have sparked diplomatic discomfort in Bangladesh.
- **Recent thaw between Bangladesh and Pakistan relationship.** Coming together of Bangladesh and Pakistan raises security concerns:
  - **Dilute India's influence in Dhaka, thereby,** complicating the regional balance.
  - **Loss of Strategic Space in** Bangladesh**, therefore reducing its leverage in the region.**
  - The thaw can further amplify the influence of **China**.

Recent developments in India-Bangladesh Bilateral Relations

Regional cooperation: Bangladesh joined **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.**

Power and Energy cooperation: India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (transports High-Speed Diesel to Bangladesh), **Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant** (supplies electricity to Bangladesh grid).

Partners in Digital Public Infrastructure: MoU on Cooperation in Digital Payment mechanisms was signed between National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Bangladesh Bank for facilitation of cross border UPI payments.

Space Diplomacy: Joint development of **Small Satellites** and its launch using Indian launch vehicle.

Medical tourism: India announced the extension of e-Medical visa facilities to Bangladeshis

Strengthening India-Bangladesh Relations: Key Recommendations

- **Economic Integration:** Expedite Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations.
  - Operationalize Indian SEZs in Bangladesh to boost investments.
- **Conclude Teesta Water Sharing Treaty; use Joint Rivers Commission for interim solutions.**
- **Energy & Connectivity** Expand cross-border electricity trade and renewable energy projects.
  - Implement BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement to enhance trade (potential 172% export boost, *World Bank 2021*).
- **Regional Leadership:** Position Bangladesh as a hub for BIMSTEC, SAARC, IORA integration.
- **Security & Governance:** Finalize Framework Agreement for Development Partnership for sustained cooperation.
  - Digitize cross-border immigration systems to curb illegal migration.

Conclusion

A shared vision of *Connectivity, Commerce, and Collaboration* can elevate bilateral ties, supporting India's Viksit Bharat 2047 and Bangladesh's Smart Bangladesh 2041 goals.

3.7. INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONS AT A GLANCE

India-Nepal Relations

"The religious and cultural ties between India and Nepal are very old and very strong and both should work to accord the relationship the height of the Himalayas" **Prime Minister of India, Shree Narendra Modi.**

Significance of India-Nepal Relations

Water resource: Kosi Agreement (1954), Gandak Agreement (1959), Mahakali Treaty (1996)	**Energy:** Joint Vision Statement on Power Sector Cooperation (2022), Cross-border Petroleum Pipeline, Hydroelectric projects	**Connectivity projects:** Raxaul-Kathmandu Railway project, BBIN	**Culture:** Roti-Beti ka Naata (Historical & cultural linkages in religion, language, cuisine, movies)	**Defence:** Military exercises (e.g. Surya Kiran)

Recent initiatives to restore Normalcy in the bilateral ties

6th India-Nepal Joint Commission meeting: Cooperation in power, oil and gas, water resources, tourism.	**Operationalization of cross-border rail link:** Jayanagar (Bihar) to Kurtha (Nepal).	**Promoting India's soft power in Nepal:** E.g. Buddhist Vihara in Lumbini	**High impact Community Development Projects** in Nepal (building hospitals, schools, colleges)

Challenges in relationship

China's rising influence: In Nepal's economy, politics and society, joining of china's BRI.	Nepal's **aggressive stance over Kalapani** boundary issue.	**Huge Trade Deficit** of Nepal with India: ~18% of GDP	**India's alleged Big Brother Attitude:** Distrust towards India, lackadaisical approach towards revisiting Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950	**Unrestricted cross-border movement:** Affects Nepal's domestic industry, law and order.

Way forward

Strengthening **Economic cooperation**	Focus on **multimodal connectivity**	**Utilization of Multilateral forums:** E.g. BBIN, BIMSTEC, NAM, SAARC to serve common interests.	**Leverage people-to-people links** to ensure a stable and mutually-productive state-to-state relationship.	Revisiting **Peace and Friendship Treaty of 1950**

Conclusion

"For India, Nepal is the "Punya Bhoomi", Nepal's sacred geography is a living repository of the Subcontinent's spiritual heritage. For Nepal, India is the vast economic hinterland and may well be called its "Karma Bhoomi". -**C Raja Mohan.**

3.8. INDIA-MALDIVES RELATIONS AT A GLANCE

India-Maldives Relations

Bilateral relations between **India and Maldives** faced strains due to the **"India Out" campaign** and **the China factor,** but now ties are recovering, paving the way for improved cooperation.

Geostrategic Significance of Maldives

Act as **'toll gate'** between **western (Gulf of Aden and Strait of Hormuz) & eastern (Strait of Malacca) Indian Ocean** chokepoints	Maldives lies along key **Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs)**—through which **50% of India's trade** and **80% of its energy imports.**	Ensure **IOR navigation freedom, regional stability, and secure** sea lanes.	Maldives' location makes it a **strategic counterweight to China's expanding presence** in the IOR and thwart **'String of Pearls'.**	**Counter terrorism: Maldives** is the first line of defence against terrorism and piracy

Geopolitical & Geoeconomic Significance

Maldives is one of the **cornerstones of India's Neighbourhood First Policy (NFP)** and **SAGAR (now MAHASAGAR)** initiative	India emerged as **Maldives' largest trade partner in 2023,** with bilateral trade reaching **nearly $1 billion** + Maldives is a popular tourist destination for Indians.	India played critical role in **bringing political normalcy** in Maldives. **E.g., Operation Cactus (1988),** Indian Army thwarted coup attempt.

Challenges in the Bilateral Relationship

China's strategic footprints through String of Pearls **(e.g. Sinamale Bridge)**	Increasing radicalization concerns **(e.g. Islamic State)**	Growing anti-India sentiments **(e.g. India out campaign)**	Allegation of lack of transparency in agreements with India **(e.g. Uthuru Thila Falhu - Island Harbour project)**

Way ahead to strengthen the Bilateral Relationship

Expedite infrastructure project delivery **(e.g. Great Male Connectivity Project)**	Enhance financial aid to counter Chinese influence **(e.g. debt-trap diplomacy)**	Strengthen security cooperation **(e.g. intelligence sharing)**	Employ soft diplomacy **(e.g. diaspora, films, etc.)**

Conclusion

"India has always stood by Maldives. It is a **"concrete expression" of India's Neighborhood First policy." – External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.**

3.9. INDIA-BHUTAN RELATIONS

India-Bhutan relations

India and **Bhutan** enjoy **"exemplary ties"** of **friendship** and **cooperation, based on trust, goodwill and mutual understanding at all levels.**

Significance of India-Bhutan Bilateral Relations (For Both)

Robust Political Relationship: Founded on the Treaty of Friendship	**Hydropower Cooperation: E.g., Basochhu** and **Nikachhu** hydropower plants now trade in Indian power markets.	**Buddhist Connect:** Promotion of Buddhist pilgrimage and cultural exchanges.	**Transboundary Wildlife Conservation: E.g.,** Transboundary Manas Conservation Area (TraMCA) to protect wildlife in Manas National Park (India) and Royal Manas National Park (Bhutan).

Significance of India for Bhutan

Development Assistance: India supports **Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan (2024-29)** and its **Economic Stimulus Programme.**	**Security Support: During Doklam Standoff (2017),** India invoked the **Treaty of Perpetual Friendship** to protect Bhutanese territory from Chinese aggression.	**Infrastructure Development:** India's Border Roads Organisation (BRO) built most of **Bhutan's roads under Project 'DANTAK'.**	**50% of Bhutan's** foreign direct investment comes from India.

Growing Concerns in India-Bhutan Relations

- **Militant Groups:** North-East Indian militants (such as United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) & National Democratic Front of Bodos (NDFB)) use Bhutan as a hideout.
- **Stalled Projects:** Bhutan halted **the BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement** (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal) due to environmental concerns.

China as a Threat

- China now accounts for **25% of Bhutan's trade,** expanding its economic influence.
- **Chinese Territorial Assertiveness:**
  - Bhutan is seen by China as part of its **"five-finger policy".**
  - The **2021 Bhutan-China border roadmap** raised concerns in India.
  - India fears **Chinese control over Doklam,** threatening the **Siliguri Corridor.**

Way forward

Diversifying economic engagements: Strengthen collaboration in fintech, space tech, and biotech.	**Investing in Bhutan's services:** Align investments with Bhutan's Gross National Happiness (GNH) philosophy.	**Gelephu project:** Utilize it to deepen ties with Bhutan and counter China's influence.	**People-to-people ties**: Enhance soft power through Buddhism and promote tourism.	**Trilogue with China:** Open communication channels to address border disputes.

Conclusion

"India and Bhutan are close not just due to their geography. Their history, culture and spiritual traditions have created unique and deep bonds between our peoples and nations. No two countries are 'natural partners' as India & Bhutan are." **– Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.**

3.10. INDIAN OCEAN REGION

Why in the news?

Recently, the Defence Minister held that India is now seen as a **preferred security partner** in IOR in **second edition of Naval Commanders' Conference in New Delhi**.

Importance of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

- **Economic**: Handles **1/3rd bulk cargo**, **2/3rd oil shipments** globally.
- **Natural resources**: Oil reserves, polymetallic nodules.
- **Geostrategic:** IOR is important controlling critical maritime chokepoints including Suez Canal, Bab el-Mandeb, Strait of Hormuz, Strait of Malacca etc.
  - **Increasing importance of Western Indian Ocean:** Can contribute to India's Deep Ocean Mission and Blue Economy 2.0 Initiatives.
    - Can bridge the gap between the Indo-Pacific and the Middle East.

India a Preferred Security Partner in IOR

IOR is important for Sea lines of communication and trade, and India's central location makes India's role in security of IOR important.

- **Policy**: Guided by **SAGAR** (Security & Growth for All).
- **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**.
- **HADR**: **Exercise CHAKRAVAT 2023** (8 IOR nations).

Impediments to India as a Preferred Security Partner

- **Resource Gap**: India: **130 warships** vs China's **350+ fleet** (largest globally).
- **China's Influence**: Ports in **Sri Lanka, Maldives, Pakistan**; **Djibouti military base**.
- **Overseas Deployment Hesitation**: Lingering impact of **Sri Lanka experience**.
- **US Policy Shifts**: Reduced Indo-Pacific focus due to **Ukraine, Middle East conflicts**.
- **Non-Traditional Threats**: Rising **piracy, maritime terrorism, drug trafficking**.

India's initiatives to establish leadership in IOR

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)	An **inter-governmental** organisation **established in 1997** to strengthen regional cooperation within IOR.
Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)	**Hosted by the Indian Navy** to further maritime safety and security in IOR.
Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)	**Conceived by the Indian Navy in 2008,** it is a forum that seeks to enhance maritime cooperation among Navies of the littoral states of the IOR.
Building Infrastructure in Littoral Countries	PM of India recently inaugurated a new airstrip and jetty along with **six India-assisted development projects at Agalega Island,** Mauritius.
The Great Nicobar Project	It involves development of **port, airport, power plant, and township at the southern end of the Andaman and Nicobar islands.**

Way Forward

- **Capacity Building:** Expand training programs and military diplomacy with littoral states.
- **Strategic Island Development:** Leverage Andaman, Nicobar & Lakshadweep for regional stability.
- **Coherent IOR Strategy:** Develop unified policy with aligned diplomatic & military actions.
- **Naval Expansion:** Boost investments in naval modernization while deepening ties with US, France & regional partners.

Conclusion

"India's fate is closely intertwined with the Indian Ocean, which has played a significant role in shaping our history and will continue to shape our future in terms of economic progress, security, and our relationships with nations in the region and beyond." — Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

"The ethos of the Indian Ocean is a consultative one and in the long run, it is the people-centric initiatives and projects that are likely to be more sustainable."- S. Jaishankar

3.11. KEYWORDS

Dragon–Elephant tango	Strategic friction	China–Pakistan Nexus	String of Pearls	Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)
"Necklace of Diamonds" Strategy	Debt-trap policy	Sinocentrism	Permanent Indus Commission (PIC)	Peaceful coexistence
Brother enemy	Bilateralism	Medical tourism	Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs)	Neighbourhood First Policy (NFP)
Buddhist Connect	five-finger policy	Death Crescent	Wait and Watch policy	Natural partners

Answer Canvas

Q. India's Neighbourhood First policy has completed a decade. In this context critically analyze the success and achievements and challenges of India's Neighbourhood First policy.

Introduction	Body Part: 1	Body part: 2	Way Forward	Conclusion
Brief information about India's Neighbourhood First policy.	Key Aspects of NFP and achievements of the India's Neighbourhood First policy	Challenges in India's Neighbourhood First policy	5 S approach, Panchasheel, Gujral doctrine	Importance of India's Neighborhood for holistic development of India.

4. BILATERAL GROUPING AND AGREEMENTS INVOLVING INDIA AND/OR AFFECTING INDIA

4.1. INDIA-WEST ASIA

India and West Asian countries

India's Foreign Policy towards West Asia

India considers the Gulf region '**extended neighbourhood**' and Iran as a part of India's '**proximate neighbourhood.**'	**Look West Policy:** Adopted in **2005,** to deepen cooperation with **West Asian** countries.	India has adopted the policy of **de-hyphenation** vis-à-vis its relations with **Israel** and **Palestine.**	**High-Level Engagements and Strategic Partnerships:** Visits to countries like UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Oman, Iran.	**Neutralizing the Pakistan Factor:** UAE's support for India post-Pulwama, Balakot, and Article 370.

Significance for India

UAE	Iran	Saudi Arabia	Israel	Kuwait
› **Key Energy Partner:** 4th largest crude, 2nd largest LNG & LPG provider › **Robust Trade Relations:** Bilateral **$85 bn (2022–23);** UAE is the **3rd largest trading partner.** › **People & Culture Ties: 3.5 million Indians** in UAE; **Remittances (FY24)** accounts for 19.2% of the total.	› India imports **Iranian oil** (though reduced due to US sanctions.) › **Chabahar Port Agreement**: To bypass Pakistan for trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia. › **Connectivity: INSTC (International North-South Transport Corridor).**	› **Energy Security:** 3rd largest source of **crude oil, petroleum, LPG (2023–24).** › **Trade:** ~$43 bn, **5th largest trading partner.** › **Security Cooperation:** Helped in arrest of **Zabiuddin Ansari** (2008 Mumbai attack).	› **Defence:** Procurement by India; from Phalcon AWACS, BARAK-8, etc. › **Agriculture and Water:** E.g., Israel's drip irrigation technology to conserve water. › **Multilateral: E.g.,** 2021, India, and Israel, along with the UAE, and the US, established I2U2.	› **First visit by an Indian PM** in 43 years. › **Kuwait, as GCC President,** pledged stronger ties with India. › **Energy Security:** 3.5% of India's energy needs.

Challenges in India West Asian countries relation

Trade deficit: With Saudi Arabia ($31.3 bn), UAE ($16 bn) in (FY 2022–23).	**Migration and Labor Issues:** Kafala system enables labor exploitation.	**Red Sea Crisis:** The Houthis have targeted international shipping in the Red Sea.	**Potential emergence of a new strategic grouping** (CRIPTAQ – China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, Afghanistan, and Qatar).	**Discriminatory Crude Pricing:** The "Asian Premium" results in higher oil prices for India.	**Threat to investment:** Such as Indian investment in Iran.

Way Forward

India can Leverage its Neutral Relations with emerging regional conflict.	**Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Progress** process can be streamlined and fast paced the on-going projects.	Mechanism to solve **Labor Migration and human rights issues with these countries.**	**Cultural Ties:** Promote shared heritage.	**Encourage tourism:** For better person-to-person contact.

Conclusion

Even amid global uncertainty and regional conflict, India's engagement with **Saudi Arabia/UAE/Qatar/ Israel** reflects a confident, multipolar foreign policy rooted in strategic autonomy serving national interest of both the sides.

"Asia is now physically tied together by infrastructure, trade, and investment. Globalisation means that the prosperity of east Asia depends and can be threatened by what happens in west Asia." **Shivshankar Menon.**

4.1.1. INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY BALANCING IN WEST ASIA

Why in the News?

Recent **escalation of tensions between Iran and Israel** has **spurred the US and other regional powers to step up diplomacy** to prevent an all-out war in West Asia.

West Asia crisis

- **Iran-Israel- USA conflict:** Israel launched **"Operation Rising Lion"**, targeting Iran's nuclear facilities, Iran retaliated with **"Operation True Promise 3"**, while the US conducted **"Operation Midnight Hammer"**, striking key nuclear sites.
- **Israel-Palestine Conflict: Recent Escalation after** attack by Hamas on Israel coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of Yom Kippur War the fourth Arab-Israel war (1973).
- **Houthies in Yemen:** Since the Israel-Hamas war (October 2023), the Houthis have launched attack at Israel and attacked international shipping in the Red Sea, claiming solidarity with Palestinians.
- **Instability in Syria:** In December 2024, Bashar al-Assad's regime collapsed where major Powers transformed Syria into a proxy battleground.

Impact on India

- **Energy security:** Gulf- West Asia- North Africa region contribute over 2/3rd of India's total imports of crude oil.
- **Diaspora and remittances:** There are around 8 to 9 million Indians in West Asia with countries like UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, etc., among top sources of inward remittances.
- **Strategic:** Implementation of projects such as **India-Middle-East-Europe Economic Corridor**, **Chabahar Port (Iran),** etc.
- **Economic Ties**: GCC is India's largest regional trading bloc (15.8% of trade).
- **Maritime Routes**: 80% of India's external trade passes through key waterways.

Impact on global level

- **Diplomatic milestones** (**E.g.** Abraham Accords, Israel-Saudi) may get compromised.
- **Intensification of maritime security:** challenges across the Indo-Pacific region in case of attacks on ships of USA, United Kingdom.
- **Competition between nations for arms:** Race or possession of Nuclear weapons may lead to global instability.
- **Impact on Global Economy:** Higher oil prices may lead to higher food prices intensifying food insecurity. Economies may get downgraded.
- **International Humanitarian Crisis** due to loss of lives, forced displacements, War Crimes (E.g. Rafah Offensive stance of Israel)
- **Questions on the role of international institutions** E.g., United Nations Security Council.

Measures to bring stability in West Asia

- **Immediate:**
  - **Both Israel and Palestine should meet** the demands placed by United Nations Security Council **(UNSC) passed Resolution 2728, calling for an "immediate" cease-fire in Gaza.**
  - **The resolution makes three demands:** Lasting sustainable ceasefire, immediate release of all hostages. The urgent need to expand the flow of humanitarian assistance in the Gaza Strip.
- **Long term:**
  - **Building Normative Framework and Process** through arms control and security negotiations declaration of regional "Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone".
  - **Resolution of the Israel-Palestine issues based on the Two Nation Theory for long-term peace and security:** UN Secretary-General's remarked, "Israelis must see their legitimate needs for security materialized, and Palestinians must see their legitimate aspirations for an independent State realized."

- **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC):** India can improve engagement with GCC as block.

Conclusion

As **West Asia** teeters on the brink, **India faces a strategic crucible—protecting energy flows (66% oil imports),** securing **IMEC corridors**, and **preventing regional conflagration**. New Delhi must leverage its **unique partnerships to enforce UNSC 2728** while **advancing GCC-mediated peace** as the **indispensable balancer**.

4.2. INDIA-JAPAN RELATIONS

Why in the News?

Prime Minister of India and Japan held a bilateral meeting on the side-lines of the G-7 Summit in Apulia, Italy.

Significance of India-Japan Bilateral Relationship

- **Bilateral:** Both countries noted that India-Japan **Special Strategic and Global Partnership** is in its 10th year.
- **Convergence of Strategic Interests:** Of both **Japan's 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific'** (FOIP) strategy and **India's IPOI.**
  - Both are participating in **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative**
- **Strategic Connectivity:** Linking **South Asia to Southeast Asia** through India's **''Act East''** and Japan's **''Partnership for Quality Infrastructure**" policy.
  - **Also,** both converge at the **Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) initiative.**
- **Defence Relationship:** The **acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)** brings closer cooperation between Armed forces of India and Japan. **E.g.,** Military Exercises**:** Dharma Guardian, Shinyuu Maitri, JIMEX.
- **Important trade partners:** Bilateral Trade was US$ 21.96 billion (FY 2022- 23), Both signed CEPA in 2011.
- **Reformed Multilateralism:** Both countries support reforms at **UNSC and are also part of Quad, G20, G4.**
- **Cooperation in Science & Technology missions: E.g.,** Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX).

Significance for India

- **Infrastructural development**: **E.g., Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail project.**
- **Foreign Investment**: Target of 5 trillion-yen investment in India (2022-2027).
- **Transformation of India's manufacturing**: **E.g., India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership.**
- **Official Developmental Assistance**: Japan is largest bilateral donor to India.

Challenges in Indo-Japan Relationship

- **Bilateral Trade**: India-Japan trade remains low with the domination of India's imports even after CEPA.
- **Divergent approaches in tackling China**: India has been vocal about China's actions at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) but restrained in directly criticising China's actions in the South China Sea, Taiwan Straits etc.
  - **Stand on Russia-Ukraine war**: Japan has joined sanctions against Russia, while India has refused to do so.
- **India boycotted 'Osaka Track' suggested by Japan at G20 summit (2019):** It aimed to create plurilateral negotiation on digital trade with intention of standardisation of rules on cross-border data flows, etc.
- **Delay in Implementation of Projects**: Such as **Asia Africa Growth Corridor** and bullet train project.

Way forward

- **Accelerate trade and investment** by review of implementation of CEPA and taking a relook at the rules of origin.
- **Enhanced defense collaboration** with focus on enhanced shared security.
- **Coherence in approach towards Indo-Pacific** at various platforms such as QUAD.
- **Deepen cooperation in new and emerging, e.g.,** modern biology, biotechnology and health care, etc.
- **Enhanced dialogue and exchanges** to strengthen Business and Business and People to People cooperation.

Conclusion

"India and Japan will work to strengthen regional economic and security forums and coordinate their actions to tackle global challenges including food and energy security, climate change and resilient supply chains." — India-Japan Vision 2025.

4.3. INDIA AND SOUTH EAST ASIA

India and South East Asian countries

Malaysia	Indonesia
› **Enhanced Strategic Partnership** to **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.** › Joined the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** as its founding member. › **Securing Sea Lines of Communication (SLOC):** proximity to the crucial Strait of Malacca. › **Oil palm diplomacy:** 1/3rd of oil palm import of India. › **Diaspora:** 3rd largest after USA and UAE.	› Ancient cultural and commercial ties, with Ramayana and Mahabharata. › Both are founders of NAM. › **Defence and Security:** Bilateral exercises **Garuda Shakti.** › **Infrastructure & Connectivity:** Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT).

Vietnam	Singapore	Thailand
› **Plan of Action (2024-2028):** To implement the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. › **India extended a US$ 300 million** credit line to enhance Vietnam's maritime security. › **Cultural Cooperation:** Conserve and restore the "My Son" World Heritage Site temples. › **Defence Cooperation: exercises** (PASSEX, VINBAX, and MILAN).	› **Strategic & Economic Ties:** Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2015) › **Trade:** India's **largest ASEAN trade partner.** › **Fintech & Innovation:** RuPay-PayNow linkage. › **People-to-People Bonds: Diaspora:** 9.1% of Singapore's residents are ethnic Indians. › **Semiconductor supply:** 10% world supply. › **Defense & Security: Joint Exercises** such as SIMBEX.	› **Strategic partnership** established. › **Mutually-Beneficial Goals:** Both have shared interests in a free, open, transparent, rules-based, inclusive, and resilient Indo-Pacific. › **Role in its Regional and Sub-regional Groupings:** important partner in **BIMSTEC.**

Conclusion

India and Southeast Asia have deep-rooted historical connections which impact their contemporary ties. These **rich contexts of past relations** that encompass **religion, culture, architectural and spiritual domains** are the aspects which make their relationship unique and distinct in the contemporary World Order.

4.3.1. 10 YEARS OF INDIA'S ACT EAST POLICY

10 Years of India's Act East Policy

PM's visit to Singapore is of particular significance as 2024 marks a decade of India's **Act East Policy which was announced by Prime Minister at the 9th East Asia Summit in 2014.**

Act East policy (AEP) in Action

Expansion of AEP from East Asia to the Indo-Pacific: Look East Policy solely focused on ASEAN; AEP to Indo-Pacific region.	**Strengthening of Multilateral and Regional engagement:** partnership with **ASEAN, BIMSTEC, ACD, IORA,** etc. **E.g.,** adoption of BIMSTEC Charter.	**Growing institutional collaboration:** With the US and its allies. **E.g.** India joined IPEF, SCRI, etc.	**India's proactive role in defence diplomacy and exports:** In 2022, **BrahMos export to Philippines** & **India-Vietnam military logistics pact.**	**Energised Connectivity Programmes:** Kaladan Multi-Modal Project, India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, Mekong-India Economic Corridor.

Convergence in strategic interests

India has strategic partnerships with Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, and Australia.	**India-Taiwan ties** are growing steadily through unofficial engagement.	India's Act East Policy aligns with Japan's **Free and Open Indo-Pacific,** South Korea's **New Southern Policy,** and **ASEAN's Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP).**	India's **solidarity for Philippines** on South China Sea issues.	Actively shaping **strategic-security architecture** to counter China's influence; supports an open, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

Key Challenges to Act East Asia Policy

Infrastructure Delays: Kaladan Multi-modal Project delayed, with costs rising sixfold.	**Refugee Influx:** Unrest in India's northeast, e.g., Manipur, due to refugee flow destabilizing border areas.	**China's Maritime Presence:** China's growing influence in the Indian Ocean may affect India's access to key routes like Bangladesh's Mongla Port.	**China-ASEAN Ties:** China's strong economic and political clout in East Asia limits India's regional influence **(China-ASEAN trade hit USD 911.7 billion in 2023).**	**Rising Trade Deficit:** India's trade deficit with ASEAN grew from US$ 7.5 billion in 2011 to US$ 44 billion in 2023.

Way Forward

Trade: Expedite renegotiation of ATIGA to address India's widening trade deficit with ASEAN.	**Infrastructure:** Prioritize completion of pending connectivity projects.	**Security:** Boost maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean and South China Sea.	**Cultural Ties:** Promote shared heritage, especially with Buddhist-majority nations.	**Multilateral Links:** Deepen engagement with Japan, Australia, and Taiwan.

Conclusion

The **10 years of AEP have strengthened India-ASEAN** ties in **trade, security, and climate diplomacy.** Expanding **strategic partnerships** with powers like South Korea, Vietnam, and New Zealand is crucial for future cooperation.

4.4. INDIA-PACIFIC ISLANDS NATIONS RELATIONS

India-Pacific Islands Nations Relations

Recently, India offered aid to disaster-hit **pacific Island Nations** showcasing India's commitment to Forum for **India–Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC)** partnership after FIPIC summit in 2023.

FIPIC Overview

- **Founded in 2014,** FIPIC includes India and 14 Pacific Islands for cooperation.
- **Summits:** 1st (2014, Fiji), 2nd (2015, Jaipur), 3rd (2023, Papua New Guinea).

Significance of Pacific Islands Nations for India

The Pacific Islands are crucial to ensure **a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.**	**Geostrategic Location:** For broader maritime strategies	**Strengthens India's Economic Leverage:** Resource security in the large EEZs of pacific island.	India's **solidarity for Philippines** on South China Sea issues.	**India's International commitment to Climate Change: E.g.** some of these nations have joined ISA and CDRI.	**Strong Diaspora Presence** and Historical connections.

India's engagement with Pacific Island Nations

Launch of **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative** in 2019.	**Grant-in-aids and Concessional Line of Credits:** For renewable energy and climate projects.	**Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR):** E.g. Supply of Vaccines during COVID-19.	**Facilitation in Election Processes:** E.g. supply of indelible ink to Papua New Guinea.	**India-UN Development Partnership Fund (2017:** It provides assistance to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)	**Community Development:** Between India and Marshall Island.

Challenges in Cooperation

Geopolitical Competition: China's increasing strategic foothold. **E.g. China's security pact with Solomon Islands.**	**Resource Constraints:** India's resources for domestic needs come in the way in providing external trade.	**Large Geographical Distance:** Between India and PINs makes engagements difficult.	**Heightened Vulnerabilities:** Faced by PINs due to natural disasters, supply chain disruptions etc.	**Exclusion from policy discussions at global level:** E.g. QUAD, AUKUS).

Way Forward

Strengthening Diplomatic Engagement: Through regular high-level dialogues.	**Collaborate on issues** like illegal fishing, piracy, and marine pollution, etc	India can focus on demand-driven projects in IT, cyber security, desalination, etc	By **strategic resource allocation** in infrastructure along with a regular review mechanism.	Fostering **people-to-people exchanges** can deepen historical and cultural ties, building long-term relationships.

Conclusion

"India and the Pacific Islands are setting an example of partnership of the century, forged by shared aspirations and challenges and shared by belief that all nations small and large have equal stakes in this world." — **Prime Minister Narendra Modi, FIPIC Summit.**

4.5. INDIA AND CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS RELATIONS

India and Five Central Asian Republics (CARs) Relations

As India looks beyond its borders, **Central Asia (a part of India's extended neighbourhood)** provides India with the right platform to leverage its political, economic, and cultural connections to play a leading role in Eurasia.

The five CARs: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. All the 5 countries are land-locked.

Significance of India's CAR connect

Energy and security: E.g., Turkmenistan 4th largest gas reserve, (TAPI) pipeline, Uranium Supply agreement with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.	**Areas of Convergence Connectivity:** INSTC; Ashgabat Agreement answer to China's BRI.	**Peace and security** in CAR linked to peace in Afghanistan.	**Multilateral:** E.g., SCO, Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), etc.

Challenges

Trade: Approx. $2 Bn compared to Chinese approx. $100 Bn.	**Geopolitical contestation:** Due to presence of Russia and China.	**Fragile connectivity:** The lack of direct overland connectivity and slow-paced INSTC.	**Sluggish implementation** of developmental as well as economic projects.

Way Forward

Can prepare a 30 years roadmap: Delineate clearly the near-, mid- and long-term aspiration from the relationship.	**Leveraging our strength:** In delivering projects that have a lasting value both in terms of durability and at optimal cost.	**Encourage tourism:** For better person-to-person contact.	**Cultural Ties:** Promote shared heritage.	**Multilateral Links:** Deepen engagement with CAR nations.

Conclusion

A strong India-Central Asia partnership serves as a force multiplier in addressing shared regional and global challenges. –**PM Modi.**

4.6. INDIA-AFRICA RELATIONSHIP

Why in the News?

Prime Minister recently visited various African countries including Ghana and Namibia.

Significance of India-Africa Relations

- **Shared past:** Close relationship through **shared struggle against colonialism** (Gandhiji's Satyagraha in South Africa) and **non-aligned movement** (Egypt as founder).
- **Trade cooperation**: India is **Africa's 4th largest trading partner**.
- **Minerals**: Africa accounts for 30% of world's mineral reserves.
- **Energy security**: For diversifying crude import. India imports around 4% of its crude oil from Africa.

- **Sustainable Development**: India provides **$12 billion concessional credit**. Key initiatives: **ITEC Program, Pan-African e-Network, e-VidyaBharti & e-ArogyaBharti**.
- **Strategic and geo-political Influence:** Africa's presence in global forums is pivotal for India's vision **of rule-based global governance** as well as for the fruition of India's aspiration of becoming a permanent member of UNSC.
  - Similarly India advocated **African Union's permanent G20 membership**.
  - **Multilateral cooperation**: **Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)** with Japan promotes development and connectivity and **India-Africa Forum Summit** enhances cooperation.
- **Defense cooperation**: **80% of India's peacekeepers** serve in Africa. India joined **Djibouti Code of Conduct/Jeddah Amendment (2020)** as observer against **piracy in Western Indian Ocean, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea**.
- **Diaspora**: **3 million Indian diaspora** in Africa supports **cultural diplomacy**.

Challenges in India-Africa relations:

- **Slow Project Delivery**: India's development commitments face delays, making it less competitive than China. Agribusiness firms criticized for **land-grabbing and displacing local population**.
- **Chinese Influence**: **20% of Africa's exports go to China, 16% of imports come from China (IMF). China's first military facility outside China opened in Djibouti**.
- **Risk Perception**: Indian businesses assign **unrealistic risk premiums to African investments** due to **inadequate awareness** of diverse economic landscape.
- **Racism Concerns**: Incidents against **African students in India damage people-to-people relations**, hindering cultural and educational ties.
- **Reputational Issues**: **'Made in India' cough syrup incident in Gambia** harms India's image and trust in Indian products.

Difference between Indian and Chinese Model of engagement with Africa

Aspect	India	China
Engagement Philosophy	**"Developing together as equals"** (Kampala Principles, 2018).	**Resource extraction focus (e.g.,** BRI projects).
Investment Focus	**Sustainable development** (e.g., Solar Alliance, e-Vidhyabharti, e-Arogyabharti).	**Hard infrastructure & resource deals (e.g.,** $7bn DRC minerals-for-infrastructure deal).
Financial Approach	Grants + transparent loans (e.g., $10bn Lines of Credit via India-Africa Forum).	Opaque loans; debt risks (e.g., Zambia, Angola in distress).
Labor Practices	Local jobs + skill transfer (e.g., ITEC trained 40,000 Africans).	Chinese labor dominance; poor working conditions.
Diplomatic Approach	Soft power via education (23,000 African students in India).	Economic leverage for political influence ("Go Out" policy).

Way ahead

- **Regular High-Level Summits:** Establish **India-African Union Track 1.5 Dialogue** for mutual interest issues.
- **Technology Transfer:** Promote **'Triple A' (affordable, appropriate, adaptable) technologies**.
- **Innovative Financing:** Explore **blended finance, Public Private Partnership, pension funds**.
- **Digital Connectivity:** Replicate **UPI, CoWIN, One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC), Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** for Africa's benefit.

- **Currency Neutrality:** Implement **rupee-based lines of credit** replacing dollar-based ones, reducing forex risk.

Conclusion

"Our partnership with Africa is beyond strategic concerns and economic benefits. It is based on the emotional bonds we share and the solidarity we feel."- S. Jaishankar.

4.7. INDIA-U.S.A RELATIONS

Why in the News?

The Indian Prime Minister visited the USA.

Significance of a Robust India-US Relationship

- **Advancing Economic Opportunities:** USA as India's top export destination; India joined three IPEF pillars.
- **Strengthening Global Strategic Influence:** Quad partnership counters China's influence in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Defense Modernization:** Foundational agreements General Security of Military Information Agreement, 2002; Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), 2016; Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), 2018; Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), 2020); US recognizes India as Major Defense Partner with STA-1 status.
  - **Also Signed Security of Supplies Arrangement (SoSA): Allows both** U.S. and its partners to request priority support **for** defence-related goods and services **to maintain** supply chain**.**
  - **Access to Advanced Tech:** India is the first non-treaty partner offered Sea Guardian drones (MTCR Category-1).
  - **Deepen military partnership and interoperability: E.g.,** YUDH ABHYAS, The Malabar exercises (India hosted Australia, Japan and U.S. forces in 2024).
  - **Defence Industrial Growth: E.g.,** INDUS-X fosters startups and joint R&D in AI, space, and undersea tech.
- **Science and technology**
  - **Emerging Technologies:** Launched iCET (2023).
  - **Space Outreach:** NISAR mission; India joined Artemis Accords for space governance.
- **Energy Security:** US as a major LNG supplier.
  - **U.S. removed 3 Indian nuclear entities** (BARC, IGCAR, and IRE) from its Entity List and India announced amendments to **the Atomic Energy Act** and **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act,** which can revitalize the dormant India-U.S. Civil Nuclear Agreement.
- **Countering Terrorism:** US extradited of 26/11 accused Tahawwur Rana to India.
- **Multilateral Support:** US back India's UNSC permanent seat, NSG, and IEA membership.
- **Climate & Renewable Energy:** U.S.-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) launched in 2021.
  - **Initiatives launched under SCEP:** Renewable Energy Technology Action Platform, Public-private Energy Storage Task Force, US-India CollAborative for Smart DiStribution System wIth Storage (UI-ASSIST).
- **Industry:** India, US ink pact to set up Semiconductor Fabrication Plant for National Security.
  - It will **be India's first and world's first multi-material fabrication (fab) plant** for national security. It is also one of the first fabs of its kind within Quad.
  - **Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance (ASIA)**, announced during Indian Prime Minister's recent visit to USA, aims to scale industry partnerships and production in the Indo-Pacific.
  - India is the first country with whom the U.S. has offered to work with on **Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA)** technologies.
- **Culture:** First ever 'Cultural Property Agreement' signed on the side-lines of the 46th World Heritage Committee to prevent and curb the illicit trafficking of antiquities from India to the USA.

Issues Straining India-US Partnership

- **Trade & Economic Challenges: Imposition of reciprocal tariffs** along with other protectionist measure will make Indian products less competitive.
  - **Priority Watch List of the U.S. 2024**: In "Special 301" report, India remained on the annual review of the global state of intellectual property rights (IPR) protection and enforcement.
  - **US revoked India's GSP (Generalized System of Preferences):** Impacting duty-free Indian exports.
- **Geopolitical Divergences:** e.g., avoiding militarizing Quad, stance on Russia-Ukraine war.
- **Visa & Immigration:** Tightened H-1B visa rules, deportation of illegal Indian immigrants.
- **Human & Religious Rights:** USCIRF concerns over CAA seen as interference in India's affairs.
- **Sanctions:** US concerns over India's S-400 purchase from Russia under CAATSA.
- **Changes in citizenship norms:** Revokes birthright citizenship; regardless of their parents' immigration status may affect **H-1B Visa Holders children.**
- **Limited Tech Transfers:** US firms prioritize sales over joint production (e.g., stalled GE F-414 engine deal).

Ways to Strengthen India-US Partnership

- **Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA):** Enhance market access, reduce tariffs, resolve IPR issues.
- **Defence Framework:** Finalize 2025-2035 defense framework.
- **H-1B Visa Easing:** Streamline visa processes for Indian professionals.
- **CAATSA Waiver:** Leverage Indian-American influence for long-term exemptions.
- **Human & Religious Rights:** US to avoid interference in India's internal matters.
- **Emerging Tech & AI:** Deepen cooperation, e.g., U.S.-India Roadmap under TRUST Initiative.

Conclusion

We are connected through and empowered by the innovative spirit of our incredible people. And together, through the actions we take, we will together shape the 21st century. - Eric Garcetti, former US Ambassador.

4.7.1. USA'S PROTECTIONIST MEASURES

Why in the news?

The USA, upholding its **'America First Policy,'** has decided to **exit from key global institutions** like the **World Health Organization (WHO), Paris agreement** and the **International Criminal Court** (**ICC**).

More on the News

- **Recently** US announced to pull out of the UNESCO citing the agency's support for woke and divisive causes and anti-Israel bias; this marks the third US exit from UNESCO.
- USA had earlier exited **Paris Agreement in 2017 but** rejoined in 2021 and initiated process of withdrawal from **WHO in 2020**, reversed in 2021.
- USA is also engaged in a **trade war** to reduce its **trade deficit**.

Previous Protectionist Measures by the USA

- **Withdrawal from Global Institutions: TPP Agreement (**withdrawal in 2017**)**
- **WTO's Dispute Settlement Body's Appellate Body** rendered dysfunctional by blocking appointments.
- **NAFTA** terminated in 2020 and replaced by United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

Potential Impact of these Measures

- **Impact on Multilateralism/ Multilateral Institutions**
  - **Weakening of authority of multilateral institutions:** Due to the USA's sovereigntist view of international law (prioritizing national over global rules).
  - **Threat to global research: E.g.**, US has ceased negotiations on the **WHO Pandemic Agreement**.
  - **Impact Developmental & Emergency works**. **E.g.,** U.S. contributions being **15.6% WHO's total revenue in the 2022-2023**.

> Also, **the US scrapping International Climate Finance Plan violates CBDR**, abandoning its duty to support developing nations in addressing climate change despite historical emissions.

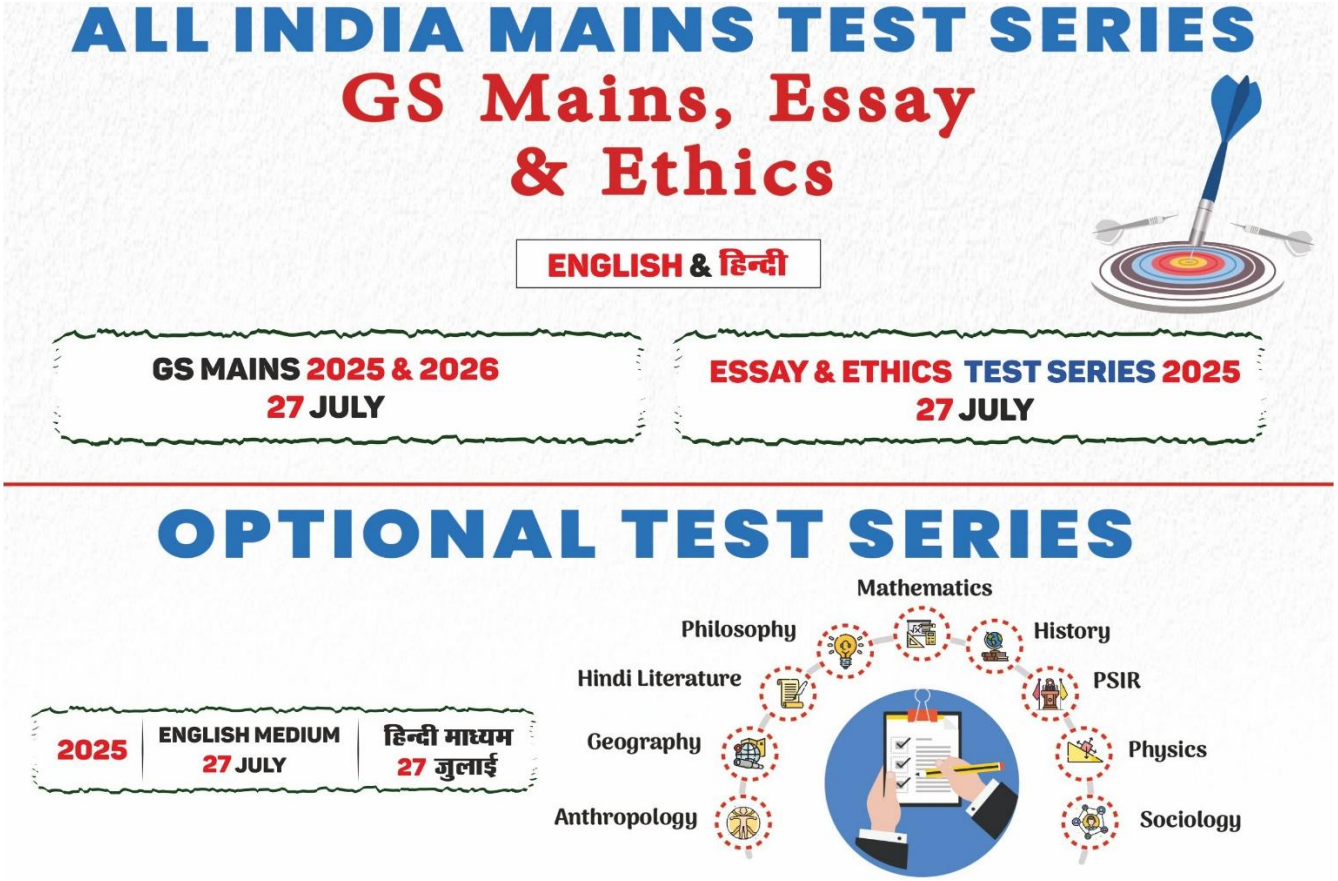
- **Global Trade and Supply Chains disruption:** Reversing wave of globalization.

- **Implications of U.S. Protectionist Policies on India's Interests**

Positive	Negative
• **India benefits from US-China tensions** by emerging as a hub for ***IT, electronics, and pharma***. **E.g.,** removal of 3 Indian firms from the US Entity List. • **Strategic Indo-Pacific Partnership:** Strengthening ties based on the **"Pivot to Asia" strategy,** under frameworks like QUAD, IMEC, and IPEF to counterbalance China. • **Technology Collaboration: E.g.,** iCET and civil nuclear agreements enhance tech transfer.	• **Trade Competition:** Indian exporters face competition from diverted Chinese goods in third markets (**e.g.,** textiles in Southeast Asia). • **High tariffs on Indian exports**: **E.g.,** steel, autos, **($45.7B US trade deficit with India).** • **Immigration Restrictions:** H1-B visa curbs and tighter US immigration policies hurt Indian tech workers (who make up ~70% of H1-B recipients**).** • **'Buy American' Policy: R**estricts Indian market access, affecting Make in India and PLI schemes.

Conclusion

America's retreat from **multilateralism weakens global institutions** but creates **strategic openings** for India—from **tech partnerships (iCET)** to **supply chain diversification**. New Delhi must leverage **QUAD and IPEF** while **resisting protectionist blows** to its exports and H1-B-dependent workforce.



4.8. INDIA-CANADA RELATIONSHIP

India-Canada Relationship

In a significant development for bilateral diplomacy, India and Canada have decided to reinstate high commissioners in each other's capitals, marking an important step towards normalising relations after nearly two years of frosty ties.

- India expelled six Canadian diplomats and withdrew its High Commissioner from Canada.
- Earlier, Canada asked India to waive off **diplomatic immunity** of Indian officials.

Reasons for recent fallout

Khalistani extremist activities supported by Canada	**Non-cooperation in security issues** (e.g. disregard to extradition requests)	**Stalled economic agreements** (e.g. Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA))	**Vote bank politics** in Canada using Sikh community

Significance of India-Canada relationship

Strategic cooperation: Rule based order in Indo-Pacific region (China factor)	**Economic:** Bilateral trade touching $9.36 billion (in goods) and $9.99 billion (in services) in 2023.	**Investment opportunities:** E.g. Canadian pension funds invested over $75 billion in India	**Large Indian diaspora** (~1.8 million)	**Defence cooperation** e.g. MoU between DRDO and Canadian Commercial Corporation for defence technology.

Probable impact of diplomatic fallout

Disruption of trade and investment (e.g. CEPA)	**Concerns for Indian diaspora,** esp. students in Canada (estimated 230,000)	**Visa processing complications**

Steps needed to strengthen the relationship

Initiate high-level diplomatic discussions	**Enhance security cooperation against terrorism** under **Framework for Cooperation on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (2018)**	**Resume trade agreement negotiations** (CEPA)	Engage diaspora through **Track-II diplomacy**	**Strengthen common strategic interests** in Indo-Pacific region **(freedom of navigation)**

Conclusion

The India-Canada relationship is anchored in shared democratic values, strong people-to-people ties and growing economic cooperation.

4.9 INDIA-EUROPE

4.9.1. INDIA-UNITED KINGDOM RELATIONS

India-United Kingdom Relations

India and the United Kingdom signed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) during Prime Minister of India's visit to the UK.

The growing convergence between India-UK Relations

India-UK relations: Elevated to 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' in 2021.	**Military exercises:** Ajeya Warrior, Konkan, Cobra Warrior etc	**Health:** AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine collaboration.	India was the **UK's 12th largest** trading partner.UK is **the 6th largest investor in India.**	**UK-India Technology Security Initiative (TSI)** was launched in 2024.

The Growing Significance of India-UK relations

Deepening of multiple-level ties: Both side released a reworked and extended cooperation framework, replacing 'Roadmap 2030' with the 'India-U.K. Vision 2035' framework.	India-UK acting as **'Net Security Provider'** across the Indo-Pacific	**Indian Ocean Region (IOR) focus: E.g.,** U.K. has at least seven permanent bases in this region.	**The India-UK economic** asymmetry provides an opportunity for India to aspire for a better per capita GDP.	**UK-India trade partnership has gained momentum after Brexit.**

Challenges in India-UK relations

Colonial Hangover: "Anti-colonial posturing prevents the establishment from seizing the full range of possibilities with Britain." **C. Raja Mohan.**	**Failure to tackle** vandalization of the Indian flag by protesters. E.g., Recent rioting targeting immigrants.	**UK's Hyphenating India-Pakistan** goes against India's interests. E.g., raising Kashmir as an issue in UN.

Way forward

Promote People-People tie: E.g., Generation UK-India initiative, India-UK Young Professionals Scheme	U.K. must **de-hyphenate its relations with India and Pakistan.**	**Prioritize collaboration in counterterrorism,** HADR, and **maritime security,** especially in the Indo-Pacific region. E.g., Particularly in the Red Sea and the Suez, the main India-UK trade lanes.

Conclusion

India's ties with the UK have continued to lag behind those with other Western partners such as France and the United States. In recent years though, despite intense political turmoil within the UK, ties with India have been on an upward trajectory.

4.9.1.1. INDIA-UK VISION 2035 AND COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC AND TRADE AGREEMENT (CETA)

Why in the News?

India and the UK signed a CETA and released 'India-U.K. Vision 2035' framework during Prime Minister's visit to the U.K.

About the India-U.K. Vision 2035

- The India-U.K. Vision 2035 framework replaces the earlier 'Roadmap 2030'. It has following **pillars of cooperation:**
  - **Trade & Economic Growth:** Signing of **India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** and work towards **Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)**.
  - **Technology and Innovation:** Creation of **UK-India Research & Innovation Corridor**.
  - **Defence and Security**: Co-development of **Jet Engine Advanced Core Technologies (JEACT)** and **Electric Propulsion**
    - Strategic convergence on **Indo-Pacific**, **Indian Ocean Region.**
  - **Climate and Clean Energy**: Collaboration on **Energy storage, grid transformation** and **offshore wind**.
  - **Education and People-to-People Ties**: Efforts to establish **UK university campuses in India**
  - **Multilateral Cooperation:** Joint advocacy for UNSC reform, and reform of WTO, WHO, IMF, and World Bank.

Highlights of Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)

The CETA is projected to **double the bilateral trade to $120 billion (presently ~USD 60 billion) by 2030**.

- **Tariff Elimination**: It eliminates tariffs on 99% of Indian tariff lines and reduces tariffs on 90% of UK tariff lines.
  - **Sectoral gains for India:** Labour-intensive sectors (textiles, leather, toys, and gems & jewelry) and engineering goods, chemicals, marine products, sports goods, auto parts and engineering goods.
  - **Sectoral gains for UK:** Greater access to Indian markets for **whisky, salmon, chocolate** and advanced manufacturing sectors.
  - **Non-Tariff Barrier Reduction** and **customs simplification.**
- **For MSMEs:** Indian MSMEs can now participate in UK government procurements.
- **For Farmers:** Farmers get access to the UK's $37.5B agri market and premium buyers
  - Sensitive sectors (Dairy, apples & edible oils) stay protected with no tariff cuts
  - No safeguard duties ensure stable, penalty-free market access
  - Traditional farming knowledge receives patent protection
- **Eases Professional Mobility:** E.g: **Eases visa norms** for Indian professionals in IT, finance, engineering, architecture, education, and yoga.
- **Double Contribution Convention (DCC)**: It exempts **Indian workers and their employer**s from social security contributions in the UK for up to three years.
- **Boost to Indian Services and IT Sector:** Facilitates growth in **digitally delivered services** (like architecture and engineering), enhancing India's global competitiveness.
- **Others**: Facilitates **technology transfer** and **increased UK investment** in Indian industries, promotes **supply chain diversification** and reduces **over-dependence on single trade corridors.**

Conclusion

As two leading democracies and global innovation hubs, India – UK CETA sets a new benchmark for fair, ambitious, and modern trade agreements worldwide.

4.9.2. INDIA-EUROPEAN UNION (EU) RELATIONS

Why in the News?

Recently, in a **High- Level Meeting** was held between the EU Trade Commissioner, the Indian Commerce and Industry Minister.

More on the news

- During the meeting a **roadmap** based on **six broad principles for building a mutually beneficial partnership** between **India and the European Union (EU)** was outlined.
- **6-Point Roadmap for India-EU Cooperation**

- **Common Values:** Cooperates on democracy, rule of law for market integration.
- **Quality Production:** Harmonizes standards (Zero Defect Zero Effect Principle).
- **Sustainable Development: Promotes fair, differentiated sustainability (CBDR).**
- **Trade Agenda:** Builds a fair, equitable trade framework addressing tariffs.
- **Technology and Supply Chain Resilience**.
- **People Ties:** Strengthens connections through skilled youth collaboration.

Significance of India-EU Relations

- **Mutual**
  - **Historical Relations:** Diplomatic relations with the European Economic Community in **1962**.
    - **5th India-EU Summit held (2004)**- upgraded to **Strategic Partnership**.
  - **Trade Partnership**:
    - **EU:** India's largest trading partner
    - **India:** EU's 9th-largest trading partner with India maintaining trade surplus (2023)
  - **Strategic Alignment:** Common interests in security, renewable energy etc. Examples
    - **India-EU Bilateral Dialogues** exist on Counterterrorism, Cyber Security etc.
    - **India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership** launched in 2016.
  - **Connectivity: Connectivity Partnership (2021)** enhancing **digital, energy, transport etc**.
- **For India**
  - **Investment**: Foreign Direct Investment valued at **USD 107.27 Bn**. (Apr 2000-December 2023).
  - **Export promotion**: Particularly in **IT, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and agriculture**.
  - **Security & Defence**: E.g. manufacturing of **Airbus C-295 aircrafts** in India.
  - **Technology & Innovation**: **E.g. India-EU Trade and Technology Council (2022)** is a strategic coordination mechanism.
- **For the European Union (EU)**
  - **Access to market**: India can be the EU's **valuable trade partner**.
  - **Cultural & Educational Ties** and **Geopolitical cooperation**: The EU can leverage **India's centrality in the Indo-Pacific** and **growth potential**.
  - **Security and Stability**: India can provide security and stability in the **Indian Ocean**.

Challenges

- **Lack of Trade diversification**: Due to non-tariff barriers like **technical barriers to trade**.
- **EU's import dependence on China**.
- **Delayed FTA negotiations**: Due to **Divergent perspectives**: Like **digital regulation** etc.
- **Carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM**.
- **Lack of consensus**: on some aspects of **labour laws, human rights, etc.**

Way Forward

- **Fastrack FTA** and **Trade Reforms**: Predictable tariffs and harmonised rules, etc.
- **Green cooperation** and **Labour policy** etc.

Conclusion

"India and the European Union, both 'unions of diversity', sharing values of democracy, rule of law and human rights, are equally convinced of the necessity to preserve the rules-based international order and effective multilateralism." India-EU (Joint Summit Declaration) 2020.

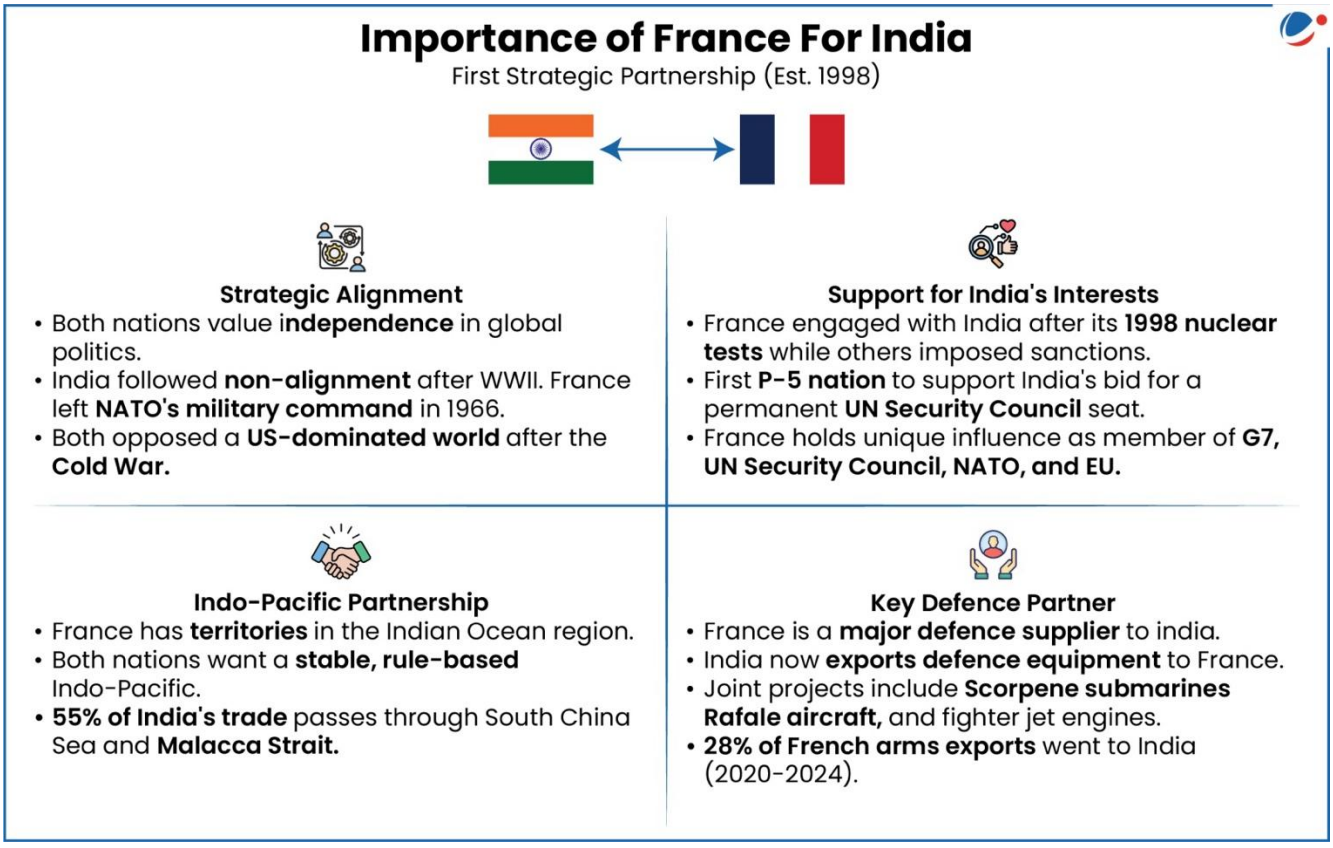
4.9.3. INDIA-FRANCE RELATIONS

Why in the News?

PM Modi met France's President during the **G7 Summit**, advancing the **'Horizon 2047' roadmap** and **Indo-Pacific cooperation**.

Key Outcomes of the Meeting

- **Horizon 2047 Roadmap** (3 Pillars):
  - **Security & Sovereignty**: Stabilize Indo-Pacific, counter terrorism (*No Money for Terror*), and combat online radicalization.
  - **Planet**: Collaborate on *Indo-Pacific Parks Partnership*, *International Solar Alliance*, and *Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)*.
  - **People**: Enhance student mobility via *Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement (2021)*.
- **Defense & 'Make in India'**: Boost co-development of defense tech (**e.g.,** *Rafale MRO, LEAP engines*).



Deepening India-France Ties

- **Defense Cooperation**
  - France is **India's 2nd largest arms supplier** (33% share, *SIPRI*).
  - **Key projects**: **Rafale jets**, **Scorpene submarines**, and new *defense industrial roadmap* for co-production.
  - **Joint exercises**: *VARUNA* (naval), *FRINJEX* (army), and multilateral drills (*La Perouse, ORION*).
  - **FRIND-X (France-India Defence Startup Excellence)** launched.
- **Indo-Pacific Strategy**: 2023 Indo-Pacific Roadmap expands collaboration from Indian Ocean to the broader Indo-Pacific.
- **Space & Tech**
  - **France** supplies critical space components; joint missions like **TRISHNA** (satellite).
  - **Supercomputing**: French firms developed India's *Param Siddhi* (4.6 petaflops).
  - **India-France Roadmap on AI.**
  - India and France co-chaired **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit** held in France.
  - Creation of the **Indo-French Life Sciences Sister Innovation Hub.**
  - **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** in France and Europe.

- **Economic & Digital Ties**
  - **FDI**: France invested **$660 million (2022–23)**. *Airbus-Tata* to manufacture helicopters; *Akasa Air-CFM* deal for 300+ LEAP engines.
  - **UPI in France**: Launched at Eiffel Tower for seamless Indian transactions.
- **Multilateral Support**
  - Supports stance on *Kashmir, terrorism*.
  - Facilitated India's entry into **MTCR, Wassenaar Arrangement, Australia Group**.
- **Civil Nuclear**
  - India and France signed a civil nuclear agreement in 2008.
  - India is also a member of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER).
  - Both nations are now working on a partnership for Small Modular Reactors (SMR).
- **Other Areas**
  - **Climate Change:** Both nations actively drive the implementation of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement and in 2018 Co-launched the International Solar Alliance.
  - **Trilateral Cooperation:** The India-France-Austral: Promotes a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

Challenges in India-France Relations

- **Bilateral trade ($15.8 bn in 2022) lags** behind potential compared to other partnerships.
- **Visa Restrictions:** Indian journalists and professionals face increasing visa hurdles
- **Stalled Nuclear Cooperation**: Jaitapur reactor project delayed due to liability laws, financing, and technical disputes.
- **Diverging Strategic Autonomy**: India's non-alignment contrasts with France's pragmatic alliances, creating friction in Indo-Pacific strategies, especially vis-à-vis China.

Way Forward

- **Bridge Strategic Autonomy Gaps**: Adopt flexible approaches to align India's sovereignty focus with France's balancing acts in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Deepen Security Coordination**: Leverage existing mechanisms like the *India-France Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism* and expand joint patrols/exercises (*VARUNA*, *FRINJEX*).
- **Accelerate Defense Collaboration**: Scale up co-production under the *defense industrial roadmap* (e.g., Rafale MRO, submarine tech).
- **Revive Stalled Projects**: Resolve liability issues to operationalize Jaitapur nuclear plant, boosting clean energy ties.
- **Multilateral & Cultural Synergy**: Cooperate in *Quad*, *I2U2*, and *Indo-Pacific initiatives* while fostering student exchanges and UPI-like digital partnerships.

Conclusion

France's Ambassador quoting **the 19th-century French historian Jules Michelet** who described India as **"the matrix of the world"** said that the **India-France partnership is "universal"** as it goes from the **"sea to the space"** and **beyond.**

4.9.4. INDIA-RUSSIA RELATIONS

Why in the News?

Prime Minister of India officially visited Russia in July 2024 for the **22nd India-Russia Annual Summit.**

Key Outcomes of the Visit

- Set the **bilateral trade target** of **USD 100 billion by 2030.**
- Promote **bilateral settlement system** using national currencies.
- Signed **Program of India-Russia** cooperation in trade, economic and investment spheres in the **Russian Far East for the period from 2024 -2029,** and cooperation principles in the **Arctic zone of the Russian Federation.**
- India will **open two new consulates in Kazan and Yekaterinburg**.

Contemporary Significance of India-Russia Relations

- **Both advocate multipolar world order:** Opposing unilateral actions by any single country**.**
  - **Russia Supports** India's permanent membership to UNSC.
- **Multilateral:** Both countries cooperate actively in multilateral forums like UN, BRICS, and SCO.
- **Defence: Russia is India's top military supplier** accounting for 36% of total defense imports. **E.g.,** Russia's S400 air defence system and newer frigates such as 'Tushil' frigate.
- **Shift from a buyer-seller dynamic:** To joint R&D and production**. E.g.** Brahmos cruise missile and Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles.
- **Strategic:** Both share concern about China's rise in their neighbourhood and its influence as a hegemon.
- **Connectivity:** Enhance India's connectivity with Central Asia and the wider Eurasia through projects like the INSTC, the Northern Sea Route and the Chennai-Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor.
- **Energy security:** Purchase of oil and fertilizer at discounted prices has kept India's inflation in check.
- **Technological cooperation:** E.g., **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (**supplying **2000 MW of energy**, 4000 MW of reactor capacity in the pipeline), **GAGANYAAN mission**, etc.
- **Partnership for Regional Stability**: E.g., Russia plays a key role in bringing peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Challenges in Indo-Russia relationship:

- **Geopolitical Challenges**:
  - Balancing strategic autonomy (e.g. balancing Russia and USA relations in light of possible secondary sanctions on India for importing Russian oil)
  - Increasing **India-US convergences** (e.g., QUAD);
  - **Growing Russia-China ties (**bilateral trade **over $240 billion**);
  - Russia is keen to **expand bilateral ties with Pakistan** (e.g., Pakistan to invited join INSTC).
- **Rising Trade deficit:** Russia enjoys a massive surplus. In 2023-24, India's exports to Russia were $4.3 billion, while imports stood at $61.4 billion. This has complicated the **Rupee-Rouble deal.**
- **Low interoperability**: Between the Indian and Russian armed forces. E.g., postponement of **Indra exercises in 2022 and 2023.**
- **No major military deals:** After the S-400 deal to avoid **USA sanctions under CAATSA.**
- **Russian Far East**: Reviving the Chennai-Vladivostok maritime corridor may only yield limited trade gains as it lacks access to **foreign markets restricting trade** due to **sanctions from Japan and South Korea.**

Way Forward

- **Diversify trade** by expand beyond oil, incorporating products from metallurgy, chemical industry, and space
- **Fast tracking** of **Eurasian Economic Union-India negotiations.**
- **Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS):** It will simplify military-to-military exchanges for exercises, training, etc.
- **Broaden collaboration on bilateral and regional issues**. E.g. as collaboration on nuclear power plant in Bangladesh.
- **Strengthening Tier II diplomacy**: Strengthening contacts with the new generation as well as academia.

Conclusion

Through every shift and realignment, India and Russia have demonstrated an exceptional ability to adapt and find new opportunities for mutual benefit and for contributing to regional and global stability and prosperity. **— S. Jaishankar.**

4.9.5. INDIA-EURASIA RELATIONS

India-Eurasia Relations

India's Prime Minister visited Poland marking a significant shift in diplomatic engagement with Central and Eastern Europe (CEE).

More on the news
The Prime Minister of India Visited **Cyprus** after 23 year.
Prime Minister also visited **Croatia, Greece, Austria and Ukraine**

Factors highlighting the Changing geopolitics of Eurasia

Hotbed of conflicts: Russia-Ukraine conflict, Armenia-Azerbaijan war.	**Growing Chinese influence:** China's Belt and Road Initiative.	**East-West strategic alignment:** AUKUS brings Europe into Indo-Pacific engagement.	**Changing US strategic priorities:** Shifting focus from Middle East to Eurasia and Indo-Pacific.	China-Russia **'no limits' partnership'; Russia-Iran-China axis;** China-Iran-Russia-Turkey-Pakistan strategic alignment.

India' Outreach to Central and Eastern Europe

India's increased diplomatic engagement with CEE countries.	**Poland is India's largest trading** & investment partner in CEE (Bilateral trade worth US$6 billion in 2023).	**IMEC:** Announced on the side-lines of the G20 summit, it aims to integrate Asia, Europe and the Middle East.	**Strong tradition of Indology studies** in Poland, Yoga, Good Maharaja Connection (Maharaja Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhji) etc.	**Strategic Autonomy at display:** E.g. India's PM visit of Ukraine shows India's view of Ukraine is independent from that of Russia.

Recent initiatives to restore Normalcy in the bilateral ties

Strategic: Strengthening ties with Russia to counterbalance China; India's growing defence partnership with Armenia.	**Economic: India's two-way trade with Eurasia** could reach $170 billion from the current figure of around $20 billion.	**Regional Security:** Help to counter terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking.	**Energy Security:** Eurasian especially Central Asian is prospective long-term partners of India in energy.

Challenges in the evolving Eurasian landscape for India

Lack of geographical connectivity and **slow progress** of INSTC, IMEC etc.	**Pakistan Factor:** Overcoming the geographic limitation represented by the Pakistan.	BRI challenges India's strategic extended neighborhood initiative such as **Connect Central Asia Policy.**	**Russia's growing proximity** to China and **India's perceived tilt** towards the **US or QUAD.**	**Balancing strategic partnerships** involves maintaining **India's autonomy** while aligning with both **maritime (QUAD) and continental (SCO) coalitions.**

Way Forward

Enhance connectivity: Join Russia's Greater Eurasian corridor and the Northeast Passage to establish connections to the Far East and Japan.	**Strengthening relations with EU:** India's Eurasian policy should include enhanced engagement with EU.	The **India-Central Asia Summit** can be **held annually instead of biannually,** similar to the India-ASEAN Summit.	India needs to balance its **Connect Central Asia policy with its Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific Strategy.**

Conclusion

"Eurasia is also part of India's extended neighbourhood with longstanding historical, cultural and trade links. However, with the creation of Pakistan and China's occupation of Tibet, these links were broken. Therefore, India's maritime links will be the more important, both on the eastern and western reaches of the Indian Ocean." **Shyam Saran**

4.9.6. INDIA-NORDIC RELATIONS

India-Nordic Relations

- The **Nordic model of social democracy** offers lessons to the developing world, including **countries like India despite the myriad complexities of diversities.**

Overview

India–Nordic strategic relations rely on strong foundations of democratic values, institutional affinities, trade cooperation, innovation, and climate justice.	**Nordic countries:** Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland.	**Exports to Finland & Norway:** Have grown by over 100% and 80% respectively.	**Trade partners:** Four of the five Nordic countries are among the top 20 trading partners of India in Europe.

Areas of Co-operation

Blue Economy: Examples include the India–Norway Integrated Ocean Management and Research Initiative.	**India–Nordic Summit (2018, 2022):** After the US, with India, Nordic countries have exclusive collaboration at the summit level.	**Arctic Council:** India is an observer in the Arctic Council, where all Nordic countries are members.	**Multilateral Convergence:** Nordic countries support India's membership in groups like the NSG (Nuclear Suppliers Group) and a Permanent Member seat in the UNSC (United Nations Security Council).

Significance of India–Nordic Countries Relations

Nordic sustainability projects: For example, the Nordic Sustainable Cities project supports the Indian Smart Cities Mission.	**Nordic Innovation Excellence:** India hosts one of the five global centres of innovation run by Finland, known as FinNode.	**Sovereign Wealth Funds:** Nordic countries are a source of investment in India. For instance, Norway's sovereign wealth fund is valued at $1.4 trillion.	**Heightened relations promote India's Arctic Policy:** Reflects India's determination for a strategic presence in the region.

Challenges

Ties with Russia: Nordic–Russia Arctic tensions contrast with India's favorable ties with Russia. Additionally, Finland (2023) and Sweden (2024) have joined NATO.	**Varied Interests of Members:** Achieving common policy stances is challenging due to differing national interests.	**Trade Barriers:** Issues like tariffs, non-tariff barriers, and complex regulations continue to hinder trade.

Way Forward

Promoting Cultural Exchanges: Strengthen people-to-people connections.	**Improving Collaboration:** Share best practices, expertise, and research in sectors such as sustainable development, climate, healthcare, energy, and digital technologies.	**Leveraging Technology on Various Fronts:** Involving start-ups, healthcare, food processing, and related sectors.	Facilitating **Frequent Diplomatic Dialogues.**

Conclusion

The India–Nordic partnership has evolved over the years, making significant strategic convergence that impacts both bilateral ties and global geopolitics.

4.10. INDIA-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS

Why in the news?

Recently, **2nd India-Australia Annual Summit** was held on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Key Highlights of Summit

- Launch of India-Australia Renewable Energy Partnership (REP).
- Extension of Australia-India Business Exchange (AIBX) programme for four more years.
- Agreement to renew Defence and Security Cooperation in 2025.

Significance of India-Australia bilateral relations

- **Strategic Partnership**: Australian Government in its National Defense Strategy (NDS) 2024 identified India as a 'top-tier security partner' in the Indo-Pacific Region.
- **Defense Cooperation**: Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement and Defense Science and Technology Implementing Arrangement have been signed.
  - Defence exercises like AUSTRAHIND, AUSINDEX, Pitch Black.
- **Economic**: Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) 2021 gave a boost to free trade, with Australia aiming to place India among its top three export markets by 2035.
  - Recently Australia Unveiled a New Roadmap for Economic Engagement with India.
- **Critical Minerals:** Signed Critical Minerals Investment Partnership. (Australia produces almost half of world's lithium).
- **Nuclear Cooperation**: Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement signed in 2014.
- **Green Energy Cooperation**: Australia-India Green Hydrogen Taskforce to enhance green hydrogen production and deployment.
- **MATES (Mobility Arrangement for Talented Early-professionals Scheme)** is a new visa initiative by Australia allowing Indian graduates and early career professionals to live and work in Australia for up to 2 years.

Issues in India-Australia relations

- **Trade:** Prolonged CECA negotiations and non-trade barriers limit Indian exports. Australian pharmaceutical pricing controls affect Indian generics.
- **Nuclear:** No commercial uranium sales despite 2014 Agreement on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.
- Rising instances of Khalistani extremism.
- **Visas:** Recent 125% fee hike increases financial Indian students.

Way ahead

- **Economic Partnership:** Strengthen ECTA, finalize CECA. Promote bilateral investments in clean energy, mining, technology.
- **Security Ties:** Counter cyber-security, maritime security, counterterrorism threats.
- **Indo-Pacific Cooperation:** Collaboration under ASEAN, Pacific Islands Forum; support small island nations.
- **Addressing Extremism:** Joint monitoring, intelligence-sharing, community dialogues.

Conclusion

India-Australia relationship is based on mutual trust and mutual respect. Our relation is beyond cricket, curry and Commonwealth; it is defined by democracy, diaspora, dosti (friendship) and most importantly, mutual trust." — Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

4.11. INDIA AND LAC (LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN) REGION RELATIONS

India and the LAC (Latin America and Caribbean) Region Relations

India and Latin America, although shared a post-colonial history, have maintained minimal bilateral ties for decades. However, the region is increasingly gaining importance in India's foreign policy.

"We must ensure that distance is no longer an impediment for stronger ties," --External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar

Significance of Latin America for India

Trade: **LAC ranks 8th** among India's import sources. **Preferential Trade Agreement** (PTA) with MERCOSUR. Comprehensive **Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** with Chile.	**South-South Cooperation:** E.g. India held first voice of Global South Summit (had 29 Latin American countries)	**Strategic Significance:** E.g. produces 40% global copper, supplies 35% of the world's lithium.	**Strategic Orientation:** Important for India's global ambitions. E.g. India's membership of UNSC, NSG	**Food and Energy Security:** E.g. Latin America (vast fertile land), Brazil (cutting-edge food storage technologies), collaboration with Brazil in eco-friendly ethanol.

Challenges in Latin America for India

Insufficient diplomatic attention and lack of sufficient institutional presence.	**Trade: E.g.** India's high tariff on Latin American agricultural goods (more than 5 times that of China's).	**Lack of connectivity:** Absence of direct shipping services & **Language barriers:** Lack of fluency in languages, unfamiliarity with India's ethos.	**Competition with China:** China has direct shipping lanes through Panama Canal, largest investor in many countries

Way ahead to strengthen the relationship

Trade diversification and acceleration: double two-way trade to $100 billion by 2027. Upgrade PTAs to FTAs.	**Revive 'Focus:** LAC' programme (to encourage business in the region). Establish Ministerial Council on Trade and Strategic Technologies	**Forge security and Defense** industry collaboration	**Development of financial institutions:** for deeper South-South cooperation.	**Redrawal of perceptions** to reflect contemporary reality

Conclusion

Latin America will continue to have a role in India's ambition to become a global power, and also part of the **'goldilocks zone' (i.e. a sweet spot between highly regulated and competitive market of USA & Europe and less competitive market of Africa with low purchasing power)** for business.

4.12. KEYWORDS

Extended neighbourhood	Proximate neighbourhood	Kafala system	Red Sea Crisis	Asian Premium
Diaspora welfare	Abraham Accords	Act East Policy	Osaka Track	Oil palm diplomacy

Internationalization of rupee	Grant-in-aids and Concessional Line of Credits	International Humanitarian Crisis	'Free and Open Indo-Pacific' (FOIP) strategy	Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)
ASEAN unity and centrality	Cultural Property Agreement	Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA)	"Pivot to Asia" strategy	maritime chokepoints
'Triple A' technologies	Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS)	Eurasian-centered global order	Connect Central Asia policy	Differentiated Sustainability
Green cooperation	Unions of Diversity	De-hyphenation	Track-II diplomacy	Blue Economy
Ocean assets	"Go Out" policy	Goldilocks Zone	'Horizon 2047' roadmap	superhighways of growth

Answer Canvas

Q. India's engagement with West Asia has evolved from energy dependence to strategic partnership. In this context elaborate significance of West Asia for India beyond energy security and mention how regional instability may affect India's interests.

Introduction	Body Part: 1	Body part: 2	Way Forward	Conclusion
Briefly discuss about West Asian region.	significance of West Asia for India in various aspects	Regional instability and effect on India	Steps to enhance engagement with various stakeholders	Role of balanced foreign policy stand for India's larger interest.

5. IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AGENCIES, AND FORA, THEIR STRUCTURE, MANDATE

5.1. INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Why in the News?

2024 marks the **75th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 1949** which is the **cornerstone of International Humanitarian Law (IHL)**.

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.

Challenges in effective enforcement of IHLs

- **Selective compliance with IHL:** Due to states prioritizing national security over humanitarian obligations.
- **Rise of non-state armed groups: W**hich often do not recognize IHL.
- **Lack of effective enforcement mechanisms: E.g.,** In the Syrian Civil War enforcement has been inconsistent.
- **Sovereignty can limit international jurisdiction**, complicating efforts to hold violators accountable. **E.g.,** Myanmar.
- **Use of Veto by P5 (permanent members): To** prevent decisive action against IHL violations. **E.g.,** During the Syrian Civil War, Russia and China repeatedly used their veto power.
- **Limited mandate of Peacekeeping missions:** Which restrict ability enforce IHL. **e.g.,** UN Mission in Darfur.
- **Use of autonomous weapons systems:** Questions about compliance with IHL.
- **Application of IHL in cyberspace: I**s still underdeveloped.

India's efforts to enforce IHL

- **Constitutional**: Article 51 directs the State to promote international peace and security.
- **Military training and awareness:** Indian Armed Forces incorporate IHL in their training programs, etc.
- **Peacekeeping operations:** India is one of the largest contributors to United Nations peacekeeping missions.
- **Dialogues with non-state actors: T**o encourage adherence to humanitarian norms. **E.g.,** J&K.

Way Forward

- **Reforms in UNSC** to make it more representative and restrict the use of veto power & enhance role of regional organizations. E.g., International Committee of the Red Cross, etc.,
- **Encourage states to incorporate IHL** into their domestic legal systems & encourage non-state actors to sign **'Deeds of Commitment'** to ensure respect for humanitarian norms by them.
- **Ensure that peace agreements explicitly** include commitments to adhere to IHL.
- **Develop specific guidelines** and protocols for applying IHL in cyber warfare.
- **Internationally regulate development** and deployment of autonomous weapons systems.

Conclusion

As the Geneva Conventions turn 75, IHL faces existential challenges from UNSC veto politics to autonomous weapons. India must champion veto reform while leveraging its peacekeeping leadership (top 3 troop contributor) to bridge the enforcement gap between states and non-state actors.

5.2. UNITED NATION SECURITY COUNCIL

United Nation Security Council

- India, on behalf of the **G4 Nations,** asserted that the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** needs reforms to tackle global challenges like **extremism, cybersecurity threats,** etc.

- 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 t**erm.
- **India is a founding member of UN** and has served as a non-permanent member of UNSC **for 8 terms.**

Areas of Co-operation

Significance of UNSC	India's Contribution in UNSC
›It aims to peacefully resolve international disputes. ›**Imposing sanctions:** to maintain peace and security. ›**Peacekeeping missions:** It oversees 11 operations across 3 continents.	› **India chaired the Taliban and Libya sanctions committees** and the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the UNSC during its tenure. › Formulation of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** › First country to raise apartheid issue at UN

Need for UNSC Reform

Lack of Representation	Declining Credibility	Interest-Based Decision Making	Benefits for India
›No representation for A**frica, Latin America, and the Caribbean** in the permanent category. ›**Under-representation of Asia-Pacific** among permanent members.	Failed in resolving conflicts, e.g., Russia-Ukraine war.	›**Veto power** is misused by permanent members to serve their interests. **E.g., China vetoed India's resolution** to designate certain individuals as global terrorists	›Greater say in **global issues,** especially concerning the Global South. ›More influence in policymaking on **terrorism** and other critical matters.

Challenges in Reforms

Amendments to UN Charter	Opposition from Groups	Slow Progress in Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN)
required.	› **G4 and L.69 Group (developing nations)** proposals face resistance from **Uniting for Consensus (Coffee Club).** › Key opponents: **Italy, Pakistan, etc.**	on Council reform.

Conclusion

Reform of the UN Security Council remains deadlocked due to competing interests and rivalries. Aspirants face opposition from members unwilling to accept their elevated status, perpetuating an outdated power structure in global governance.

5.3. INDIA AND UN PEACEKEEPING

India and UN Peacekeeping

Principles and Mandates of UN Peacekeeping

Principles of UN Peacekeeping: Consent of the parties, Impartiality, Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate	**Mandates:** Protect civilians and promote human rights, Assist in disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of former combatants.

Relevance of UN Peace Missions for India

Showcases India's commitment to **international peace** by **containing regional and international conflicts.**	**Strategic footprints** in regions where India has **economic, energy, or multilateral interests**	**Strengthens** claim at the international level **(e.g.,** permanent membership of UNSC)	Provides **international exposure** to military forces, showcasing proficiency

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 Indian Army to train over **12,000 troops** per year.

Challenges Faced by UN Peacekeeping Missions

Organisational Challenges
- Troops and police do not have a role in decision-making process.
- Inadequate power with UN.
- Redundant missions (e.g., UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan - UNMOGIP).

Operational Challenges
- Waning international support.
- Role of regional organizations in brokering peace (e.g., Organisation of African Unity - OAU).

Reforms Proposed by India for the UN Peacekeeping Mission

Decision making: Greater role for troops and police contributing countries.	**Prudent deployment of missions:** With full recognition of their limitations.	**Regional approach:** Support regional and sub-regional organizations in mediation, monitoring, and peacekeeping.	**Exit strategy:** Peacekeeping missions should have a clear exit strategy.	**Safety of peacekeepers:** Should be ensured by bringing perpetrators of crimes to justice.

Conclusion

Peacekeeping has proven to be one of the most effective tools available to the UN to assist countries in navigating the difficult path from conflict to peace.

5.4. ICC

Why in the News?

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for **Russia's former defence minister** and **its military chief** for **attacking civilian targets in Ukraine**.

ICC's Role in Addressing Grave Crimes Against Humanity

- **Ends Impunity & Upholds Rule of Law**
  - Acts as a last resort for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.
  - In the 20th century, ~200 million died due to conflict (1 in 27 deaths).
- **Enforces War Conduct Laws**
  - Prosecutes war crimes impartially under *jus in bello*.
  - *E.g.*, ICC Prosecutor emphasized law's role in protecting civilians in Israel-Palestine.
- **Complements National Courts:** Steps in when domestic courts fail to prosecute atrocities.
- **Promotes Domestic Legal Reforms:** Encourages states to adopt laws against international crimes.
- **Victim-Centered Justice:** Allows victim participation in trials.
- **Protects Vulnerable Groups**
  - Prosecutes sexual violence and child soldier use.
  - *E.g.*, Convictions of Lubanga (child soldiers) and Bemba (mass rape).
- **Global Criminal Justice Governance:** Assembly of States Parties enables collective decision-making (one state, one vote).
- **Trust Fund for Victims (TFV)**
  - Provides reparations and victim assistance.
  - *E.g.*, 26,000+ beneficiaries in 2023.

4 categories of Crime under ICC

Genocide
- Methods include killing, causing harm, etc.
- Involves preventing births or forcibly transferring children between groups.

Crimes against humanity
- Large-scale attacks against civilian populations.
- Includes murder, rape, enslavement, torture.

War crimes
- Grave breaches of Geneva Conventions during armed conflict.
- Includes using child soldiers, killing civilians, and attacking protected buildings.

Crimes of aggression
- Armed force against sovereignty, integrity, or independence of another State.

Limitations of the ICC

- **Weak Enforcement:** Relies on states for arrests; warrants often ignored (*e.g.*, Sudan's president).
- **Low Convictions:** Fewer than 60 indictments despite thousands of potential cases.
- **Power Politics:** UNSC vetoes block referrals (*e.g.*, Syria case blocked by Russia, China).
- **Selective Prosecutions:** Focuses on feasible cases over worst offenders (*e.g.*, Kenya).
- **Perceived Bias Against Africa:** 47 of 54 indicted individuals are African, fueling accusations of colonialism.

India and the International Criminal Court

India has neither signed nor ratified the Rome Statute ('Statute') of the International Criminal Court ('ICC').

Reasons:

- **Objections to the Role of the Security Council:** India rejected the power of referral and deferral of the UNSC in the Roman Statute.
- **Nuclear weapons:** India favoured the inclusion of use of nuclear weapons in the list of war crimes.
- **Jurisdictional Issues:**
  - India believed that the **consent of territorial** and **custodial States** should be sought.
  - India opposed the jurisdiction of the ICC **over internal conflicts.**
- **Terrorism:** India believed **that terrorism must be included in lists of crimes.**

Conclusion

Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, said, "The prospect of an international criminal court lies in the **promise of universal justice**. Only then will the **innocents of distant wars and conflicts** know that they, too, **may sleep under the cover of justice**".

5.5. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

WHO

About WHO

- **UN Agency:** United Nation's specialized health agency.
- **Genesis:** The **International Health Conference** held in New York in 1946 adopted the Constitution of WHO, which **entered into force in 1948.**
- **Key Functions: Coordinates the world's response to health emergencies,** promote well-being, prevent disease and expand access to health care.

Challenges in India-UK relations

Regulating international health laws.	**Universal Health Coverage (UHC): e.g.** WHO's Global Drug Facility.	**Tackling Health Emergencies:** Declares a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).	**Eliminating diseases:** Key role in eradicating smallpox, achieving near eradication of polio etc.

WHO's Global Initiatives

Emergency Response: Uses standardized frameworks for rapid, complex emergency responses.	**Health Action Plans:** Includes plans like Every Newborn, Indigenous Peoples, nutrition, cervical cancer, meningitis, TB, polio eradication (2017-2026).	**Wellness Promotion:** Features MPower, LIVE LIFE for aging, suicide prevention (2021-2030).	**Research and Innovation:** Focuses on genomic surveillance, mRNA vaccine tech, Global Centre for Traditional Medicine, Vaccine Safety Initiative.

Shortcomings of WHO

Poorly coordinated responses to outbreaks.	**Political Pressures:** especially from **China and USA**	**Complex Organizational Structure:** Multiple departments with overlapping tasks.	**Absence of financial independence and effective legal powers.**	**Conflict of Interest:** It is alleged that decisions influenced from pharmaceutical sector.

WHO Reforms

Transformation Agenda (2017): It aims at supporting health leadership.	**Sustainable Financing:** WHO launched its first investment round in 2024.	**WHO Results Framework:** Tracks country-level progress using output scorecards.	**Supply Chain & Logistics and Partnerships** such as with Google and FIFA.	**Incident Management System:** Enables rapid deployment of medical teams, etc.

Conclusion

WHO is a vital partner for India, providing technical support for UHC (Ayushman Bharat), disease control (TB, polio), and pandemic response, advancing health equity despite needing ongoing reforms.

5.6. COMMONWEALTH

The Commonwealth

- **Commonwealth:** It is a **voluntary association of countries,** most of which are formerly British colonies, collaborating on democracy, trade, and climate change.

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.

India's Relations with the Commonwealth

India is the largest **Commonwealth member, making** up nearly **60% of its population,** and is the **fourth-largest contributor.**	It has hosted key events like the **1983 CHOGM Summit** and **2010 Commonwealth Games** in New Delhi.	In 2018, India set up a **$50 million Commonwealth Sub-Window** under the **India-UN Development Fund** to support **SDGs and climate action** in member nations.

Is the Commonwealth relevant in the present times?

Arguments in Favor	Arguments Against
Election Observation Missions: Since 1967, the Commonwealth has monitored **140+ elections in 40+ countries,** reinforcing democratic values. **Expanding Membership:** New members like **Togo** and Gabon (non-former British colonies) show its appeal as a **cooperation forum.** **Trade Benefits:** Commonwealth members enjoy **21% lower trade costs** compared to non-members. **SDG Advocacy:** It actively supports **Sustainable Development Goals,** especially **Goal 16 (peace & justice).**	**Legacy of Colonization:** Critics argue it **legitimizes colonialism** and members should **prioritize other global forums (UN, ASEAN, etc.).** **Limited Crisis Response:** Its **weak COVID-19 coordination** raised doubts about its effectiveness in global crises. **Human Rights Concerns: Rwanda's CHOGM hosting** sparked controversy over its **human rights record.** **Funding Issues:** The **Commonwealth Secretariat** struggles with **limited funding,** relying heavily on **UK bilateral aid.**

Conclusion

Leveraging the Commonwealth network for mitigating climate Change, enhanced business, trade, and people-to-people connections and is essential for long-term growth and prosperity.

5.7. KEYWORDS

International Humanitarian Law (IHL)	Principle of distinction	Principle of proportionality	Principle of precaution	Deeds of Commitment
Promoting Epistemic Institution	Most-Favored-Nation (MFN) Principle	plurilateral carve-outs	Crimes against humanity	Victim-Centered Justice
Jus in bello principle	Custodial States	promise of universal justice		

Answer Canvas

Q. "UNSC reforms are not just about representation but about democratization of global governance." Examine need of UNSC reforms and political and structural impediments to UNSC reform.

Introduction	Body Part: 1	Body part: 2	Way Forward	Conclusion
Briefly give brief information of UNSC.	Need of the UNSC reforms.	Overall challenges in UNSC reforms.	Steps needed to UNSC reforms.	Importance of inclusive UN organizations for new Global order.

6. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS 2013-2024 (SYLLABUS-WISE)

India and its neighbourhood- relations

- Discuss the geopolitical and geostrategic importance of Maldives for India with a focus on global trade and/energy flows. Further also discuss how this relationship affects India's maritime security and regional stability amidst international competition? (2024)
- Indian is an old age friend of Sri Lanka. Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Srilanka in the light of the precedent statement. (2022)
- Do you think BIMSTEC is a parallel organization like SAARC? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two? How Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming a new organization? (2022)
- A number of outside powers have entrenched themselves in Central Asia, which is a zone of interest to India. Discuss the implications, in this context, of India's joining the Ashgabat Agreement, 2018. (2018)
- 'China is using its economic relations and positive trade surplus as tools to develop potential military power status in Asia'. In the light of this statement, discuss its impact on India as her neighbour. (2017)
- The question of India's Energy Security Constitutes the most important part of India's economic progress. Analyse India's energy policy cooperation with West Asian countries. (2017)
- Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India's Look East Policy in the context of the post-Cold War international scenario. (2016)
- "Increasing cross border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of several member states by Pakistan are not conducive for the future of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)." Explain with suitable examples. (2016)
- Project 'Mausam' is considered a unique foreign policy initiative of Indian Government to improve relationship with its neighbours. Does the project have a strategic dimension? Discuss. (2015)
- Terrorist activities and mutual distrust have clouded India – Pakistan relations. To what extent the use of soft power like sports and cultural exchanges could help generate goodwill between the two countries? Discuss with suitable examples. (2015)
- With respect to the South China sea, maritime territorial disputes and rising tension affirm the need for safeguarding maritime security to ensure freedom of navigation and over flight throughout the region. In this context, discuss the bilateral issues between India and China. (2014)
- In respect of India-Sri Lanka relations, discuss how domestic factors influence foreign policy. (2013)
- What is meant by Gujral doctrine? Does it have any relevance today? Discuss. (2013)

Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

- Critically analyse India's evolving diplomatic, economic and strategic relations with the Central Asian Republics (CARs) highlighting their increasing significance in regional and global geopolitics. (2024)
- "Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO'. In the light of the above statement point out the role of India in mitigating the problems. (2023)
- How will I2U2 grouping transform India's position in global politics? (2022)
- "If the last few decades were of Asia's growth story, the next few are expected to be of Africa's." In the light of this statement, examine India's influence in Africa in recent years. (2021)
- The time has come for India and Japan to build a strong contemporary relationship, one involving global and strategic partnership that will have a great significance for Asia and the world as a whole.' Comment. (2019)

- "What introduces friction into the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India's National self- esteem and ambitions" Explain with suitable examples. (2019)
- What is the significance of Indo-US defence deals over Indo-Russian defence deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region. (2020)
- "India's relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back." Discuss. (2018)
- In what ways would the ongoing U.S-Iran Nuclear Pact Controversy affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to this situation? (2018)
- Increasing interest of India in Africa has its pro and cons. Critically examine. (2015)
- Economic ties between India and Japan while growing in the recent years are still far below their potential. Elucidate the policy constraints which are inhibiting this growth. (2013)

Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests

- 'The West is fostering India as an alternative to reduce dependence on China's supply chain and as a strategically to counter China's political and economic dominance." Explain this statement with examples. (2024)
- 'The expansion and strengthening of NATO and a stronger US-Europe strategic partnership works well for India.' What is your opinion about this statement? Give reasons and examples to support your answer. (2023)
- Russia and Ukraine war had been going on for the last seven months. What ethical issues are crucial to consider while launching the war and its continuation so far? Illustrate with justification the ethical issues involved in the given state of affairs? (2022)
- The newly tri-nation partnership AUKUS is aimed at countering China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region
- Is it going to supersede the existing partnerships in the region? Discuss the strength and impact of AUKUS in the present scenario. (2021)
- "The USA is facing an existential threat in the form of a China, that is much more challenging than the erstwhile Soviet Union." Explain. (2021)
- The aim of Information Technology Agreements (ITAs) is to lower all taxes and tariffs on information technology products by signatories to zero. What impact would such agreements have on India's interests? (2014)
- The proposed withdrawal of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from Afghanistan in 2014 is fraught with major security implications for the countries of the region. Examine in light of the fact that India is faced with a plethora of challenges and needs to safeguard its own strategic interests. (2013)
- What do you understand by 'The String of Pearls'? How does it impact India? Briefly outline the steps taken by India to counter this. (2013)
- The protests in Shahbag Square in Dhaka in Bangladesh reveal a fundamental split in society between the nationalists and Islamic forces. What is its significance for India? (2013)
- Discuss the political developments in Maldives in the last two years. Should they be of any cause of concern to India? (2013)

Indian Diaspora

- Indian diaspora has scaled new heights in the West.Describe its economic and political benefits for India. (2023)
- 'Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries'. Comment with examples. (2020)

- Indian Diaspora has an important role to play in South East Asian countries economy and society. Appraise the role of Indian Diaspora in South-East Asia in this context. (2017)

Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

- 'Terrorism has become a significant threat to global peace and security.' Evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC and its associated bodies in addressing and mitigating this threat at the international level. (2024)
- 'Sea is an important Component of the Cosmos' Discuss in the light of the above statement the role of the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) in protecting environment and enhancing maritime safety and security. (2023)
- Clean energy is the order of the day. Describe briefly India's changing policy towards climate change in various international fora in the context of geopolitics. (2022)
- Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. What importance does it hold for India? (2021)
- Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the COVID-19 pandemic. (2020)
- 'Too little cash, too much politics, leaves UNESCO fighting for life.' Discuss the statement in the light of US' withdrawal and its accusation of the cultural body as being 'anti-Israel bias'. (2020)
- What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of 'Trade War', especially keeping in mind the interest of India? (2018)
- What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it. (2017)
- What are the aims and objectives of the McBride Commission of the UNESCO? What is India's position on these? (2016)
- "The broader aims and objectives of WTO are to manage and promote international trade in the era of globalization. But the Doha round of negotiations seem doomed due to differences between the developed and the developing countries." Discuss in the Indian perspective. (2016)
- Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in UN Security Council. (2015)
- India has recently signed to become founding member of New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the strategic significance of these two Banks for India. (2014)
- WTO is an important international institution where decisions taken affect countries in a profound manner.
- What is the mandate of WTO and how binding are their decisions? Critically analyse India's stand on the latest round of talks on Food security. (2014)
- Some of the International funding agencies have special terms for economic participation stipulating a substantial component of the aid to be used for sourcing equipment from the leading countries. Discuss on merits of such terms and if, there exists a strong case not to accept such conditions in the Indian context. (2014)
- The World Bank and the IMF, collectively known as the Bretton Woods Institutions, are the two intergovernmental pillars supporting the structure of the world's economic and financial order. Superficially, the World Bank and the IMF exhibit many common characteristics, yet their role, functions and mandate are distinctly different. Elucidate. (2013)

Miscellaneous

- "The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised Nations has disappeared on account of its new found role in the emerging global order" Elaborate (2019).

7. APPENDIX: KEY FACTS AND DATA

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.
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	• 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.
AUKUS	• 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.

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).

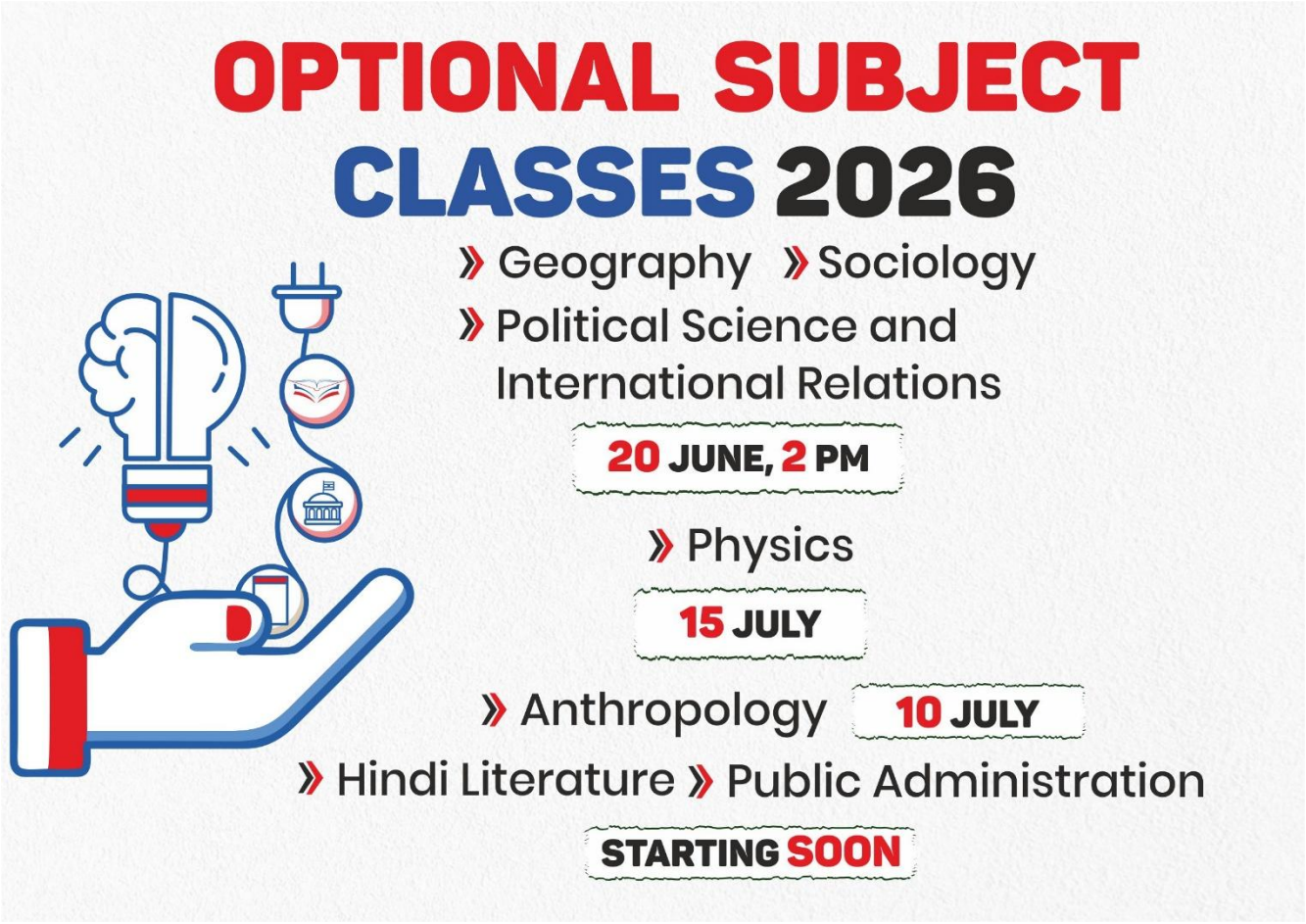
India- China	**South China sea tensions**
	• China claims almost the entire SCS based on historical rights dating back to the Western Han dynasty (**1992 claim; marked by "nine-dash line").**
	• **Global Trade:** 1/3 of global maritime trade transits through the SCS (3.5 million sq km); 40% of globally 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. • ***T*rade 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.**
India-Japan	• **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.**
India-Russia	• 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 trilliomy; 32% of World Population; More than 60% of population aged 29 or under.



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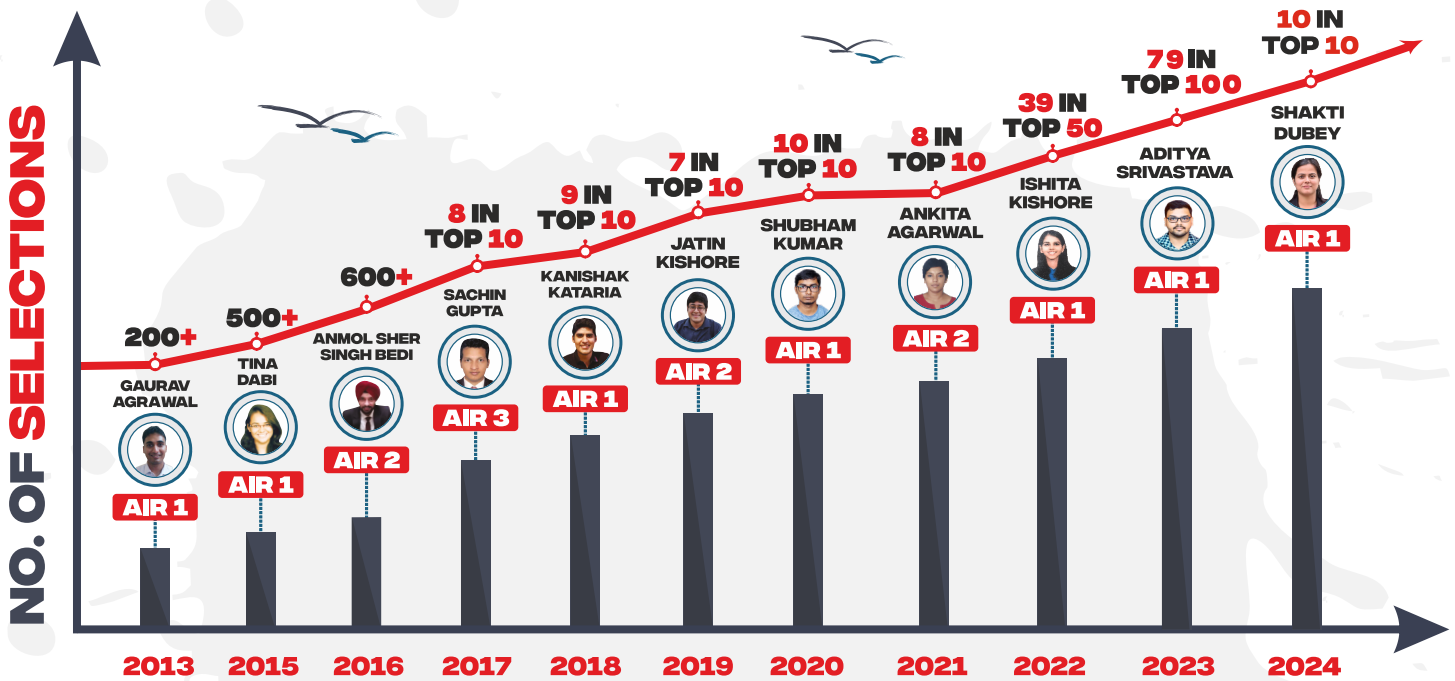

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DELHI : 8 JULY, 11 AM | 15 JULY, 8 AM | 18 JULY, 5 PM
22 JULY, 11 AM | 25 JULY, 2 PM | 30 JULY, 8 AM

GTB Nagar Metro (Mukherjee Nagar): 10 JULY, 8 AM | 29 JULY, 6 PM

हिन्दी माध्यम 7 अगस्त, 2 PM

AHMEDABAD: 12 JULY | BENGALURU: 22 JULY | BHOPAL: 27 JUNE | CHANDIGARH: 18 JUNE
HYDERABAD: 30 JULY | JAIPUR: 5 AUG | JODHPUR: 2 JULY | LUCKNOW: 22 JULY | PUNE: 14 JULY

फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2026

- प्रारंभिक, मुख्य परीक्षा और निबंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी टॉपिक का विस्तृत कवरेज

DELHI : 7 अगस्त, 2 PM | JAIPUR : 20 जुलाई | JODHPUR : 2 जुलाई

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Heartiest Congratulations to all Successful Candidates

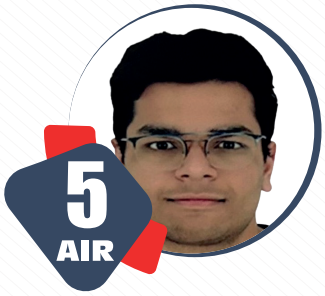
10 in **TOP 10** Selections in **CSE 2024** from various programs of **Vision IAS**

1 AIR **Shakti Dubey**

2 AIR **Harshita Goyal**
GS Foundation Classroom Student

3 AIR **Dongre Archit Parag**
GS Foundation Classroom Student

4 AIR **Shah Margi Chirag**



5 AIR **Aakash Garg**

6 AIR **Komal Punia**

7 AIR **Aayushi Bansal**

8 AIR **Raj Krishna Jha**

9 AIR **Aditya Vikram Agarwal**

10 AIR **Mayank Tripathi**

79 Selections in **TOP 100** in **CSE 2023**

1 AIR **Aditya Srivastava**

2 AIR **Animesh Pradhan**

5 AIR **Ruhani**

DELHI

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33, Pusa Road,
Near Karol Bagh Metro Station,
Opposite Pillar No. 113,
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Mukherjee Nagar, Opposite Punjab
& Sindh Bank, Mukherjee Nagar

GTB NAGAR CENTER
Classroom & Enquiry Office,
above Gate No. 2, GTB Nagar
Metro Building, Delhi - 110009

FOR DETAILED ENQUIRY
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