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	6.4. UNHRC
	6.4. UNHRC
	6.4. UNHRC



# STUDENT NOTE

#### Dear Students,



To support you, we have **distilled essential information from VisionIAS Mains 365 resources,** renowned for their comprehensive coverage of current affairs.



The summary of Mains 354 provides a **comprehensive coverage of key developments** in international relations and their impact on India which is relevant for your UPSC Mains answers. It will help you in quick revision.



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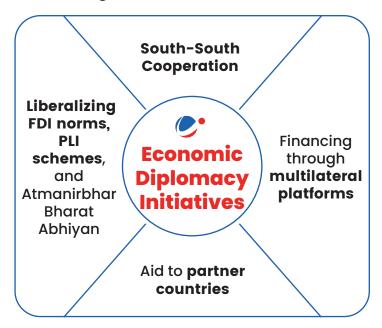
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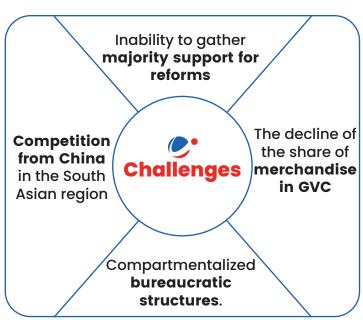


# 1. Dynamics Of Changing World Order

#### 1.1 INDIA'S ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

**Definition:** Economic diplomacy is a foreign policy tool that involves the use of economic instruments in conduct of international relations for serving the country's economic, political, and strategic interests.

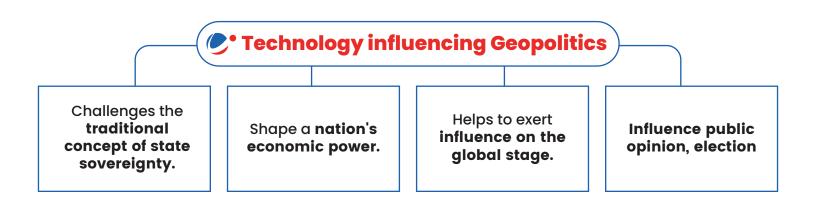


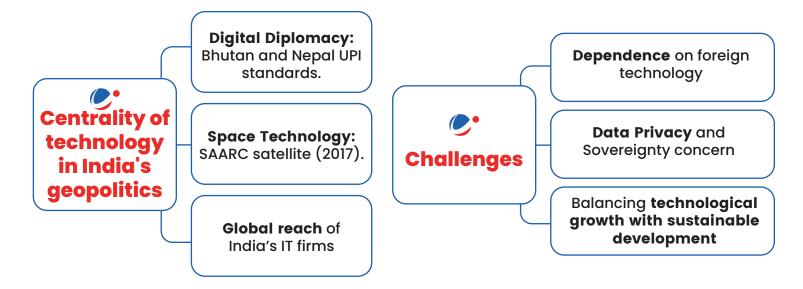


#### Conclusion

Economic diplomacy should seek for balance between competition and cooperation, aspirations and the achievable, and regional and global goals.

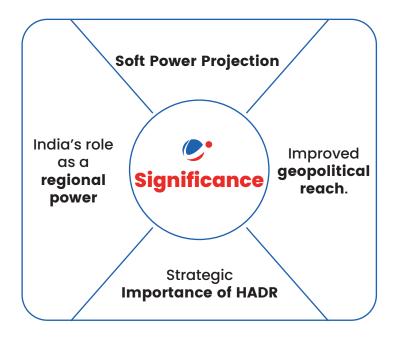
#### 1.2 ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN GEOPOLITICS

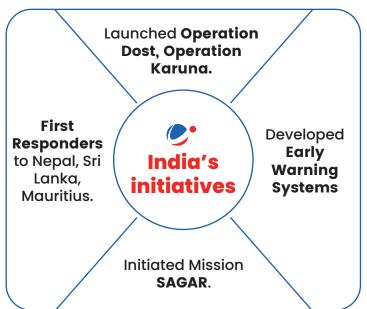




#### 1.3 DISASTER DIPLOMACY

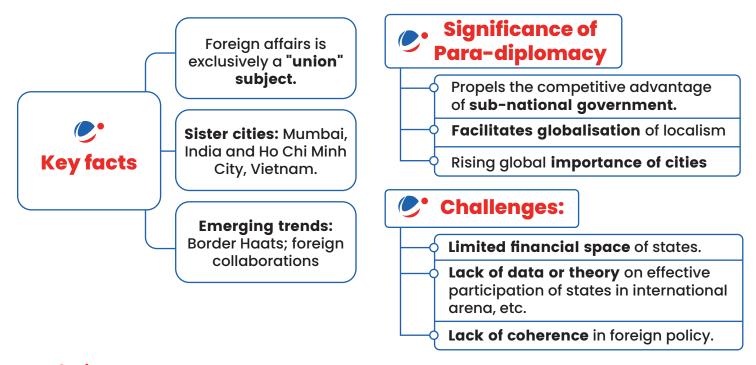
**Disaster Diplomacy** refers to 'a country's efforts to provide aid and support to other countries affected by natural/ man-made disasters or conflicts.





#### **1.4 PARA-DIPLOMACY**

It's foreign policy capacity of non-central governments and their participation, independent of central government, in the international arena.

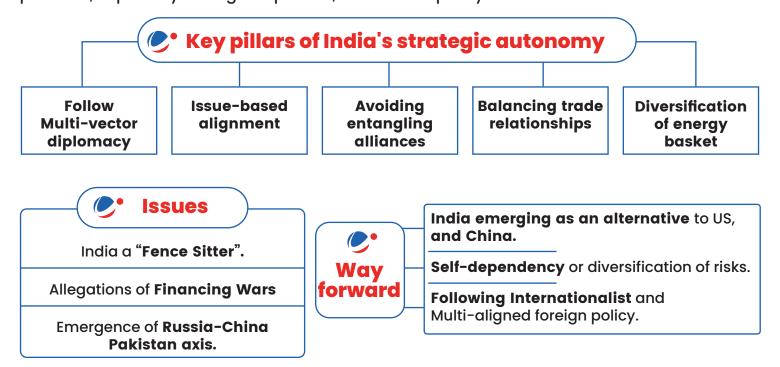


#### Conclusion

Para-diplomacy is still in its nascent stage in India. Indian state should overcome their relative passivity in foreign relations.

#### 1.5 INDIA'S STRATEGIC AUTONOMY

**Definition:** It is defined as the capability to make decisions independent from external pressure, especially from great powers, in the main policy areas.







#### 1.6 INDIA: THE VOICE OF GLOBAL SOUTH

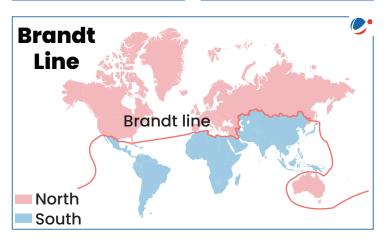


Multidirectional diplomatic engagements.

Democratizing climate governance in the global arena.

Pushing reform in multilateral institutions

Capacity building of the Global South.





**Underrepresentation** in global forums.

Global North conflict impacting the South.

Global South is **disproportionately** impacted



India's 5 pillar approach: Samman, Samvad, Sahyog, Shanti and Samriddhi India has called for 4Rs- Respond, Recognize, Respect and Reform.

## 1.7 INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



#### **Key Facts**

Concessional lines of credit (US\$ 34.4 billion).

**Grant-in-aid** projects

162.43 million doses of **COVID** vaccines to 97 countries

Less than 1% of India's budget.

# Modalities in India's Development Cooperation Framework

**Concessional finance** 

**Technology sharing** 

Capacity building

Trade wherein **duty-free and quota- free** access to the Indian market is provided.



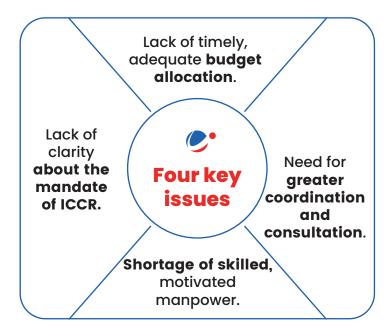




#### 1.8 SOFT POWER AND CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

Soft power: It is the ability to influence others through appeal and attraction using noncoercive means.

Cultural diplomacy: It is the "exchange of ideas, and other aspects of culture among nations and peoples.



#### **Tools of India's Cultural Diplomacy**

Yoga: United Nations approved 21 June as International Yoga Day.

Indian Cinema: It has huge audiences across the world.

India's Values and Tolerance: are seen as largely positive in nature.

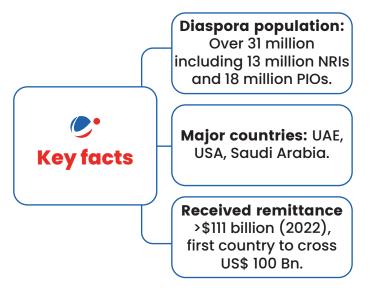
**Indian Cuisine:** India with its cultural diversity is home to a fascinating array of Cuisine.

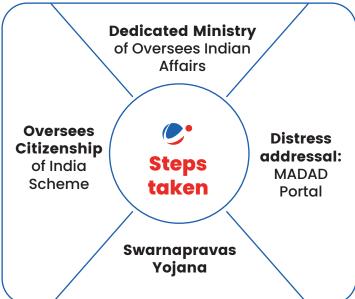
**Tourism:** help in connecting people and

#### 1.9 INDIAN DIASPORA

Diasporas serves as transnational country's brand ambassador living bridges connecting

India and world and each one of them is











#### 1.10 GEOPOLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF PORTS

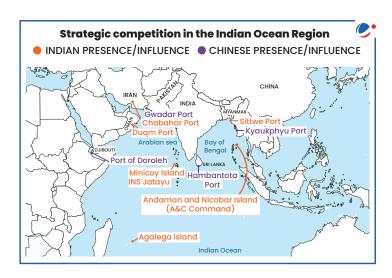


#### **Strategic Significance of Ports**

Act as geopolitical assets

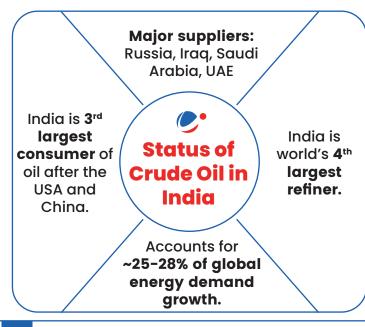
Strengthens **Maritime Security**  Strengthening Bilateral and multilateral relationship

**Enhance** connectivity, facilitate trade and enable country's participation in GVC



China's debt trap diplomacy (with respect to Rivalry Hambantota). among Smaller Nations: E.g. neighbourhood string of nations pearls caught in (China) and Challenges geopolitical necklace of rivalry of diamonds China and (India) India strategies. **Security and** Safety concerns due to piracy.

#### 1.11 Crude oil as an Strategic Tool



#### **Strategic Significance of Crude Oil**

Crude oil as an economic Leverage, e.g. OPEC.

Strategic Partnership with importing countries.

Showcases Geopolitical Strength, e.g., Oil-rich Gulf.

As an instrument of Sanction



# 2. Regional, And Global Grouping And Agreements Involving India And/Or Affecting India's Interest

#### **2.1 INDIA AND G20**

G20 summit theme: "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth, One Family, One Future".

# **Significance of G20 Presidency for India**

**Showcase** Leadership: E.g., **GBA** 

Voice of the Global South. E.g., AU in G20.

**Economic** opportunities. E.q., **IMEC** 

Expand India's footprint

# **Significance of G20**

Support global financial stability

Address global development challenges

Human resource development and Employment.

**Recast** Bilateral ties

# \* Challenges for G20

**Divergent interests** and priorities among members

G20 is **not a legally binding institution**.

Geopolitical tensions between G20 members.

**Inadequate response** to global challenges

#### 2.2 INDIA-MIDDLE EAST- EUROPE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

IMEC includes rail, ship-to-rail, and road routes across two corridors: East corridor links India to Arabian Gulf; northern connects Gulf to Europe.

#### **Significance**

**Establishment of Commitment** between US, Europe and India

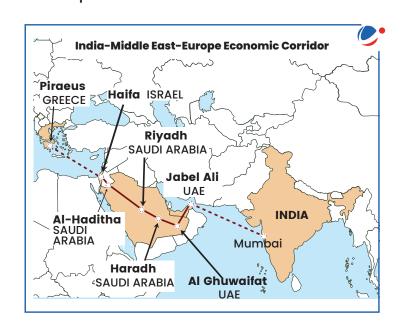
**Trade accessibility** will reduce trade costs, etc.

Enhanced **regional connectivity** 

It will **integrate economies** in India, West Asia and Europe.

Secure regional supply chains

Significance of IMEC for India: Trade between India and Europe up by 40%, Reduce logistic cost.







#### 2.3 AU: A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE G20



#### Significance of inclusion of **African Union in the G20**

#### For the G20

Africa: Holds 60% of renewable energy assets

Reinvent G20's image

#### For India

Voice of global south

Align with India's aspiration.

Resource diversification

#### For Africa

A platform to global issues.

Signal Africa's growth

## \* About African Union

About: It is a continental body consisting of the 55 member

Genesis: Launched in 2002

Collectively: GDP of \$3 trillion with 1.4 billion people



India's efforts in promoting integration with the African continent

The Pan African E network Project (PANEP)

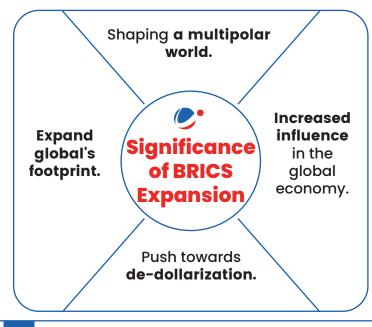
Asia-Africa Growth Corridor: Indo-Japan collaboration

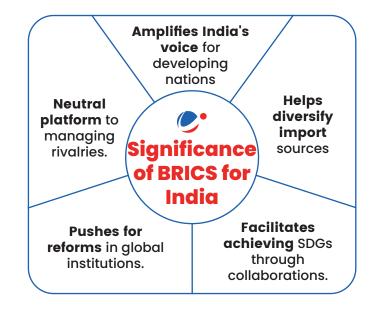
The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme

India Africa Forum summit: For greater cooperation between India and Africa.

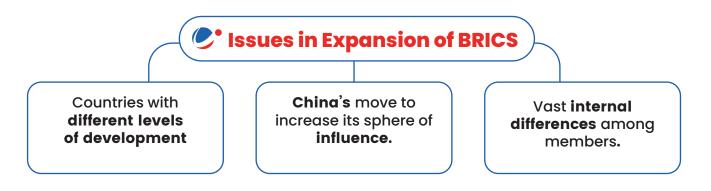
#### **2.4 EXPANSION OF BRICS**

Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates have joined BRICS as full-time permanent members.



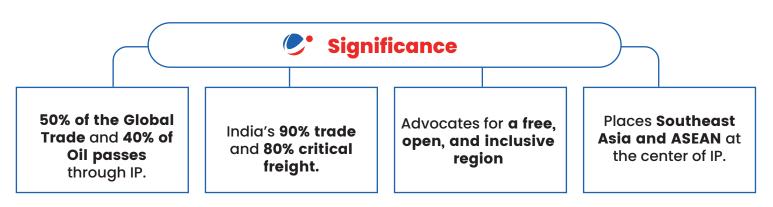


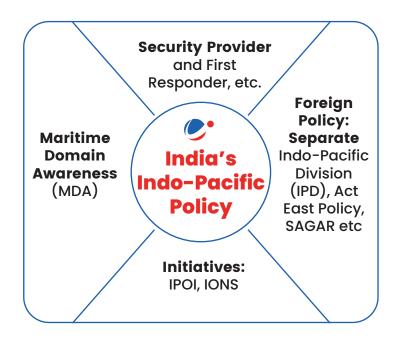


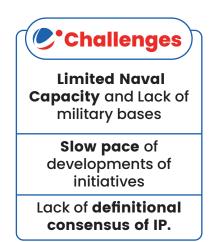


#### 2.5 INDIA-INDO PACIFIC

Indo-Pacific as a region **extends from the Eastern shores of Africa to the Western shores of** America.











#### 2.6 Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)



#### **About IPEF**

Genesis: launched jointly by the USA and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region

14 partner countries including India

Together these countries represent 40% of world GDP and 28% of global trade.



Unlike Traditional trade blocs IPEF will not negotiate tariffs or market access.

Also, IPEF negotiations under the **four pillars are in silos**, independent of each other.

A country need **not participate in every module**.

# P FOUR PILLARS OF ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

Connected Economy
(Trade): High
standard rules in the
digital economy,
including standards
on cross-border data
flows and data
localization

Resilient Economy (Supply Chains):

Supply chain commitments to create a more resilient economy and guard against price spikes that increase costs

**Clean Economy:** 

Commitments on clean energy, decarbonization and infra- structure that promote good-paying jobs.

Fair Economy: Enact and en-force effective tax, anti-money laundering, and anti-bribery regimes that are in line with exist-ing multilateral obligations

#### **2.7 QUAD**



Indo-Pacific accounts 50% global maritime trade, 60% global GDP.

**Boost to Act East Policy** 

Can make India a preferred destination for investment.



Less institutionalisation.

Seen as cold war mentality.

Distinguishing Quad's purpose.

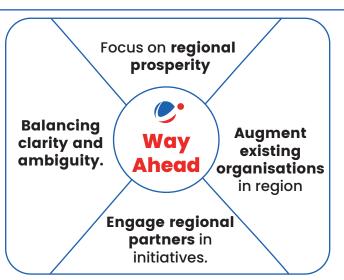
Problem of delivery



Possibility of reactivating tensions with China.

Compromise its flexible partnerships with other countries.

Alienate other Indian partners like Russia and Iran.



#### 2.8 INDIA-ASEAN RELATIONS



**ASEAN** is India's 4th largest trading partner

**India ASEAN trade:** \$122.67 billion (2023-24)

**ASEAN comprises 11%** of India's global trade

>20% of India's outbound **investments** go to ASEAN



Centrality in India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific Vision.

India-Myanmar-Thailan d Trilateral (IMT) Highway, Kaladan Multimodal Project.

**ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting** - Plus (ADMM-Plus), ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME)



#### **Challenges**

India's withdrawal from RCEP: issue of Myanmar.

Widening of trade deficit.

**Great power competition:** between US & China.

China's maritime dispute with ASEAN countries.



#### WAY AHEAD

#### **Review AITIGA**

Institutionalise ISA, CDRI, LiFE and OSOWOG.

Strengthen Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: IPOI, AOIP.

**Expedite IMT** project



#### 2.9 THE COMMONWEALTH

## India's relations with the Commonwealth

India is the **largest** member state of the Commonwealth It is the **fourth largest** contributor to the Commonwealth

India hosted the CHOGM & CWG in 1983 and 2010 respectively.

Commonwealth Sub Window established in **2018** 

Arguments
in favour

Since 1967, it has sent **140 missions** to monitor elections.

Newer members, like non-former British colonies, **Togo and Gabon.** 

Commonwealth committed to the implementation of SDGs.

# Arguments against

Its very existence is legitimizing colonization

Less relevant in addressing global issues

Lack of cohesion among members.

Problem of delivery

#### 2.10 NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



#### **About NAM**

Asia-Africa Conference held in Bandung, Indonesia in 1955.

**Founders:** Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia and Yugoslavia.

The idea was **to declare themselves as** "**nonaligned**"

**NAM's first conference -** The Belgrade Conference in 1961.

The NAM **does not have a formal founding charter** nor a **permanent secretariat**.

NAM countries support the principles of self-determination. Rising Still importance applicable as of the a strict Current concept measure to relevance of of **Active** prevent NAM colonization. Non-Alignment. **Promoting Multilateralism** and Global Peace.

**Challenges** 

Changing world order

**Evolving** alliances

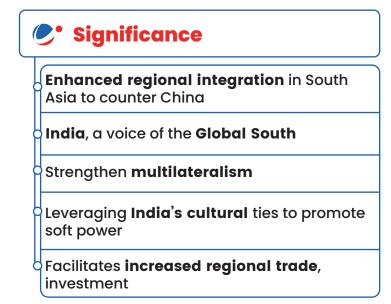
Regional organizations such as ASEAN, SCO

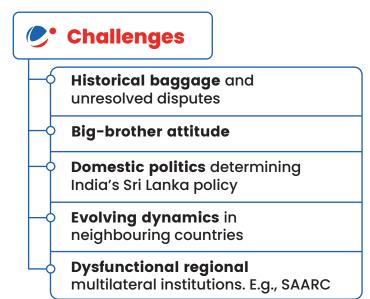
Lack of leadership.



# 3. India And Its Neighbourhood Relations

#### 3.1 INDIA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST POLICY





# •

# **Key Recommendations**

**Dedicated Cell by MEA** to identify and implement projects.

Address illegal migration

Cultural **and**People-to-People
connect.

Periodic review on the basis of contemporary realities

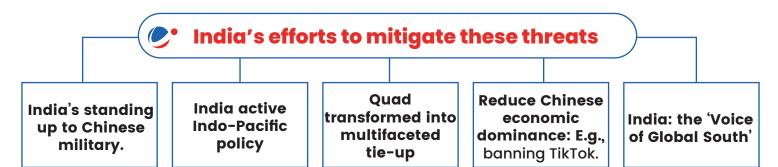
#### 3.2 CHINA'S RISE AND THREATS TO INDIA

# China's Major Strategic Threats to India

Chinese intrusion in Ladakh

China's defence budget of \$222 billion Vs. India's \$75 billion.

The trade deficit was a little over \$99 billion (2023). China using its
economic dominance
for favourable
geopolitical results
(called
"geoeconomics")



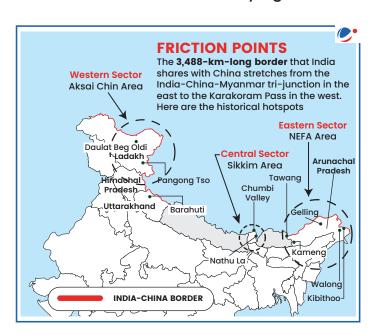
#### 3.3 INDIA-CHINA BORDER DISPUTE

Line of Actual Control (LAC) is the dividing line between the two nations. However, border between India and China is not formally demarcated and there is no mutually agreed LAC.

Western Sector (Ladakh): India considers the Johnson Line (of 1865) as the border whereas China claims the McDonald Line (of 1899).

Middle sector (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand): Largely undisputed area.

Eastern Sector (Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim): China claims the state of AP as part of the Tibetan Autonomous Region



# Key dispute resolution Initiatives include

1993 Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the LAC. 1996 Agreement on Confidence-Build ing Measures in the Military Field along LAC 2005 Protocol on Modalities for Implementation of Confidence-Building Measures

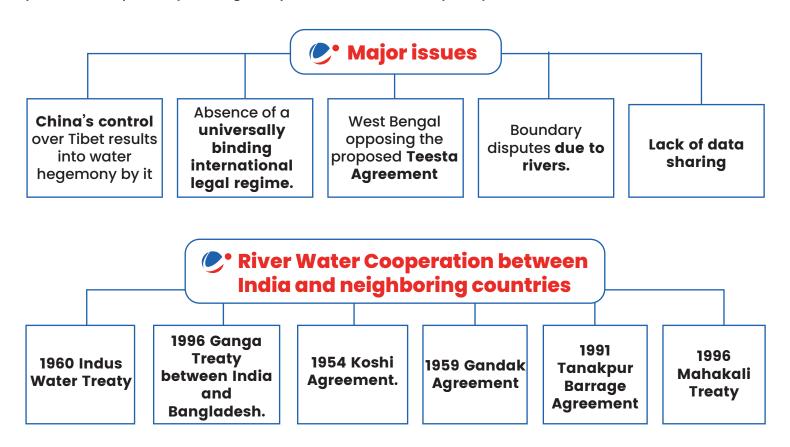
2012 Agreement
on Establishment
of a Working
Mechanism for
Consultation and
Coordination on
India-China
Border Affairs.

2013 Border Defense Cooperation Agreement.



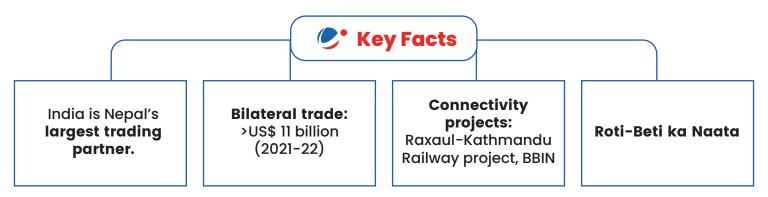
#### 3.4 TRANS-BOUNDARY RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT

**Definition:** It is defined as the capability to make decisions independent from external pressure, especially from great powers, in the main policy areas.



#### 3.5 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-India's PM.



contact

points,

real-time

information

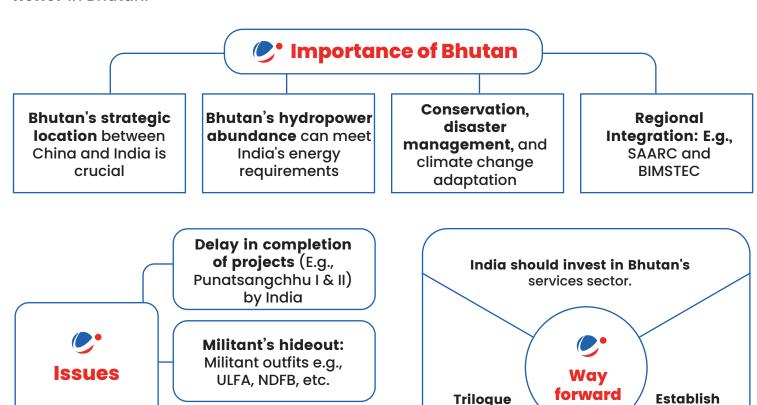
sharing, etc.





#### 3.6 INDIA-BHUTAN RELATIONS

Prime Minister of India was conferred the "Order of the Druk Gyalpo", the highest civilian honor in Bhutan.



**BBIN Motor Vehicle** 

Agreement: On hold by

Bhutan due to

environmental concerns.

with China

to minimize

border

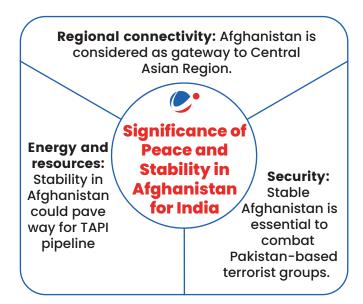
dispute

uncertainties





#### 3.7 INDIA-AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS UNDER TALIBAN REGIME







Technical Mission in Kabul: Opened in June 2022.

India has continued Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarship scheme

o India, like the US and most of the other nations, has not yet recognised the government

India stresses on importance of 'Afghan-led,
Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled' peace
process

#### **Orward**Way Forward

Engage
Taliban both
bilaterally and
as part of
regional
grouping like
SAARC.

India should
continue to
host Afghan
students and
capitalize on its
strong goodwill
among Afghan
people

#### 3.8 India's North-Eastern Neighbours

# Major issues/areas of concern

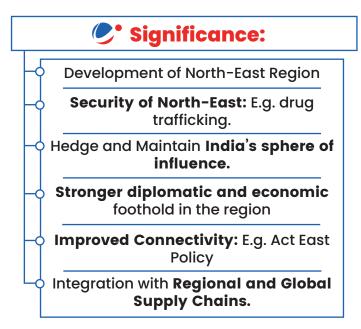
Poor and porous borders (Banglad esh, Nepal, Myammar),

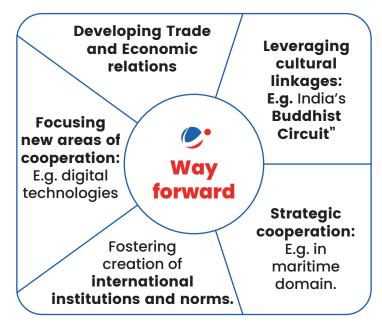
**Proximity to Narcotics web** of Death Triangle.

Refugee crisis in North-East: E.g. Rohingya Crisis Delay in implementation of Projects.



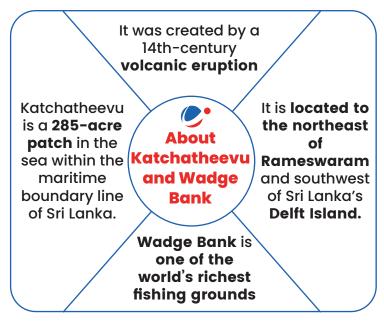




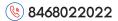


#### 3.9 INDIA-SRILANKA MARITIME BORDER

The problem has three interrelated facets: Disagreements over Kachchatheevu island; poaching by Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan waters; and Use of trawlers causing environmental damage.



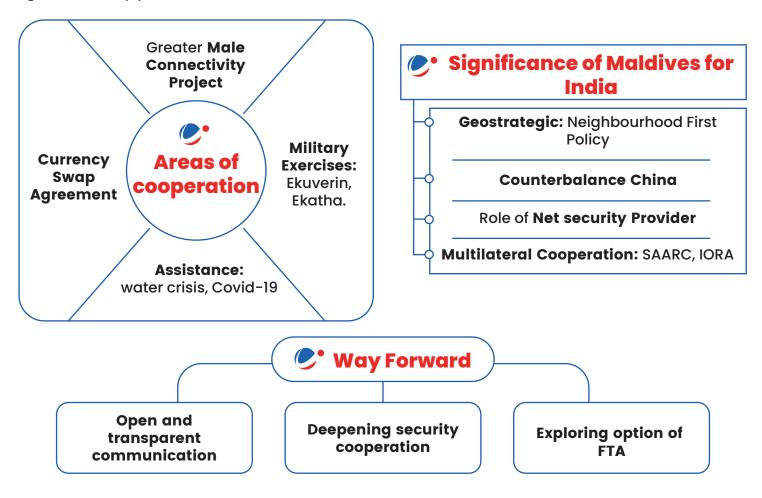




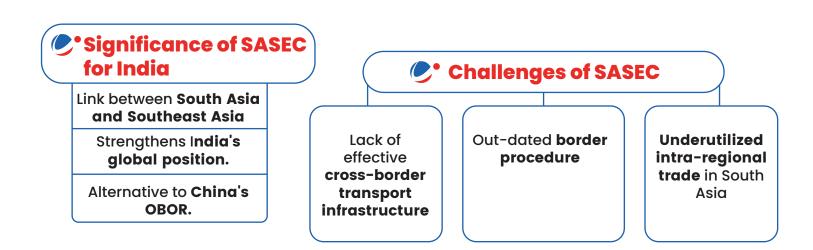


#### 3.10 India-Maldives Relations

Maldives opted out of **Colombo Security Conclave annual meeting (2023)**, Maldives signed military pact with China



### 3.11 South Asia Sub Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC)





#### 4 pillars of SASEC

SASEC Transport Sector Strategy

**SASEC Trade Facilitation** 

**SASEC Energy Sector Strategy** 

**SASEC Economic Corridor Development Strategy** 



#### Way Forward

Prioritize border infrastructure

Regional energy cooperation

Strengthen regional value chains



A daily current affairs bulletin that simplifies newspaper reading and keeps you updated with daily events.



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Covers multiple sources such as The Hindu, Indian Express, PIB, the Mint, Economic Times etc.



Segments: Primary News of the Day Also in News and Special Focus on Personalities/Places in News



Covers recent developments and helps to understand the terms, complex phenomenon in news.



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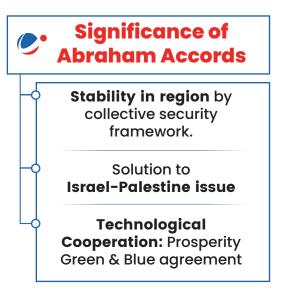




# 4. Bilateral Grouping and Agreements involving India and affecting India

#### 4.1 Abraham Accords

3 years of signing of the Abraham Accords {Collective agreement between the United States (US), the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Israel}

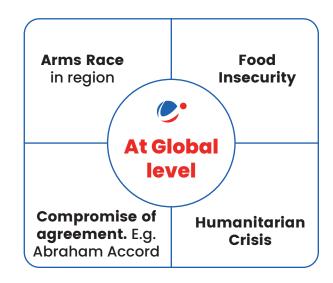




#### 4.2 Israel-Palestine War

#### **Impacts of instability in West Asia**

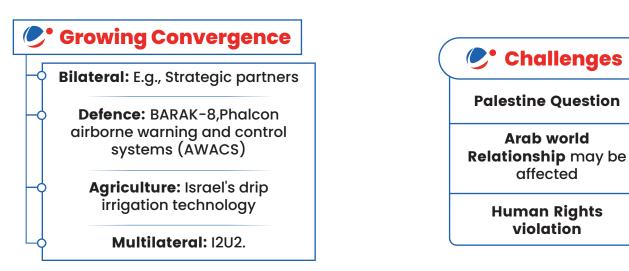






#### 4.3 India-Israel Relations

India-Israel ties are a marriage made in heaven, practised on earth"- Israeli PM

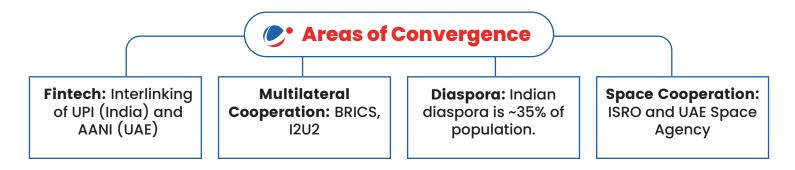


#### Conclusion

Synergistic convergence of geopolitical interests, democratic normative alignment, and collaborative counter-terrorism efforts fortify India-Israel relations as a robust, dynamic, and resilient strategic partnership

#### 4.4 India-UAE Relations

Bilateral Investment Treaty signed during Indian PM visit to UAE, CEPA signed in 2022 to boost trade to \$100 billion.





**Deteriorating regional peace** 

**Rights of emigrant labourers** due to Kafala system.

Trade and Market access barriers

#### Conclusion

The relations with UAE are important for India just not in bilateral spheres but also in India's Extended Neighbourhood and Look West Policy of India

#### 4.5 India – Saudi Arabia Relations

1st summit-level meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) was held, >18% of India's crude oil imports are sourced from Saudi Arabia



#### Significance for India

Geostrategic: Look West' policy and IMEC Corridor.

Help in expediting India-GCC FTA.

Indian Diaspora: >2.4m million Indian expatriates in Saudi Arabia.



**Regional conflicts** in the Middle East

**Exploitative Kafala System** 

Close ties with Pakistan



Bilateral engagements beyond trade and commerce, Labor Welfare, Counterterrorism measures

#### 4.6 India-GCC Relations

GCC is India's largest block trading partner, with bilateral trade close to US\$ 184 Bn in FY 2022-23.



#### Significance

GCC is a potential investment source: E.g. Saudi Arabia (\$100bn) and UAE (\$75bn) plan huge investments in India's economy

Essential for India's role as a 'Net Security Provider'

India's regional **geo-economic focus** 

**Energy Security** 



Economic slowdown in Arab Gulf economies.

Pakistan's military ties favor its position in West Asia.

> China's Saudi-Iran rapprochement



**Diversify Economic Ties** 

Collaborate on Regional Security Issues

Facilitate India-GCC free trade agreement

#### 4.7 India And Five Central Asian Republics (CARs) Relations

# **P** Areas of Convergence

Connectivity: INSTC, Ashgabat Agreement.

**Energy:** Turkmenistan 4th largest gas reserve.

Peace and security in CAR linked to peace in Afghanistan

# **Challenges**

Trade: ~\$2 Bn compared to Chinese approx. \$100 Bn.

Geopolitical contestation due to Russia and China. Fragile connectivity

#### **Conclusion**

In recent years, relationships have been witnessing metamorphosis, wherein, growing convergence can bring a paradigm shift in the geostrategic dynamics of the extended neighbourhood.

#### 4.8 India-South Korea Relations

In the golden age of Asia, Korea was one of its lamp-bearers- Rabindranath Tagore in The Lamp of the East

• Bilateral trade \$ 24.4 billion(2023), 'Special Strategic Partnership' in 2015

# **©**\* Significance

Convergence of India's 'Act East' policy and South Korea's 'New Southern Policy (NSP).

India's 'Korea Plus' promotes Korean investments in India.

India endorsed "**Vancouver Dialogue**" to prevent North Korean nuclear proliferation

# **O** Challenges

South Korea (observer of global politics), India's trade deficit with South Korea, North Korea issues

#### **©**\* Way forward

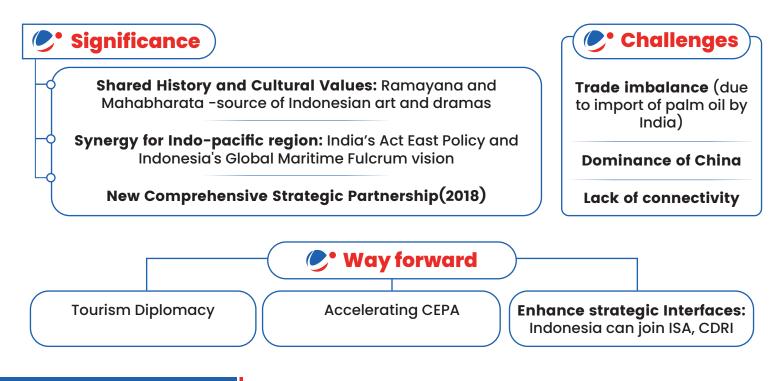
Cooperation in the Defence Industry and Maritime Domain Awareness,

Expansion of bilateral agenda to security, science, and technology

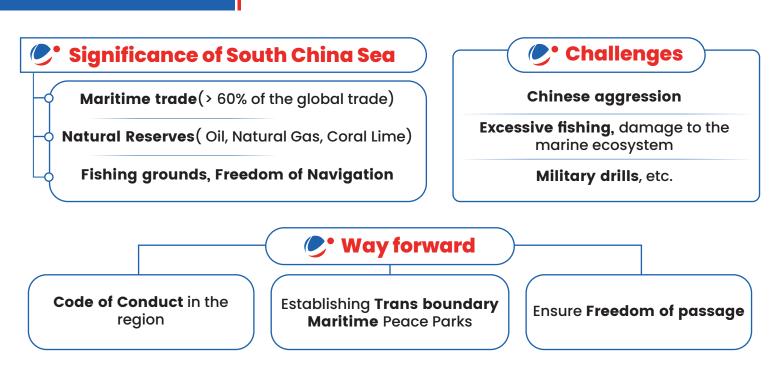


#### 4.9 India-Indonesia Relations

In 2024, India and Indonesia commemorated 75 years of diplomatic relations.



#### 4.10 South China Sea





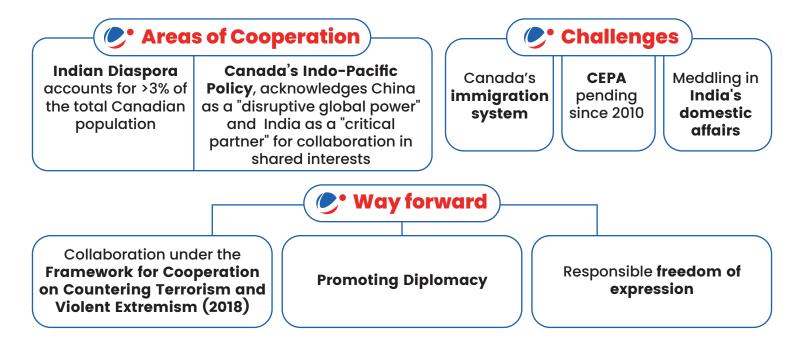


#### 4.11 India-US Relations

India-USA stands at a new dawn in relationship that will not only shape the destiny of our two nations, but also that of the world. Our trusted partnership is like the Sun in this new dawn that will spread light all around. (PM,India)



Canada's assertion of Indian agents involvement in the murder of a pro-Khalistan activist.

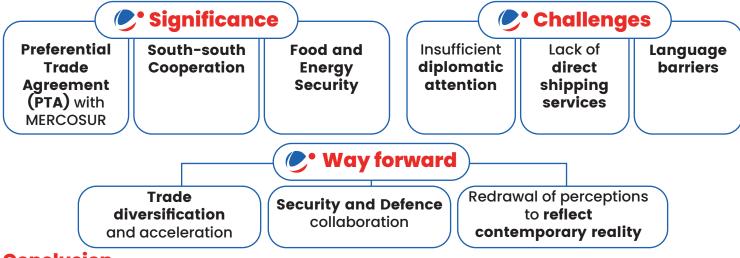






#### 4.13 India-Latin America Relations

LAC (Latin America and Caribbean) accounts for ~3% of India's imports and ranks 8th among India's import sources, Bilateral Trade: US\$ 49 billion (2022)

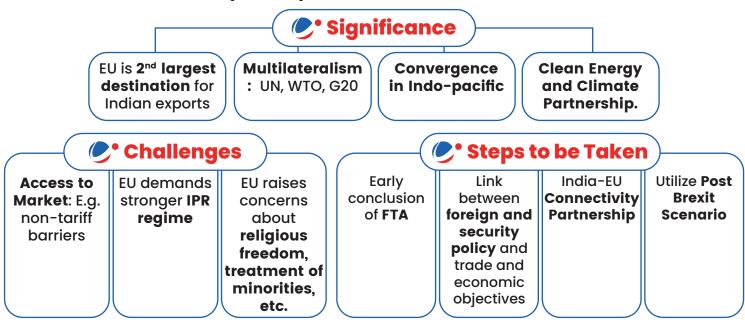


#### **Conclusion**

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.

#### 4.14 India-EU Relations

Bilateral trade: \$135 billion (2022-23)



#### **Conclusion**

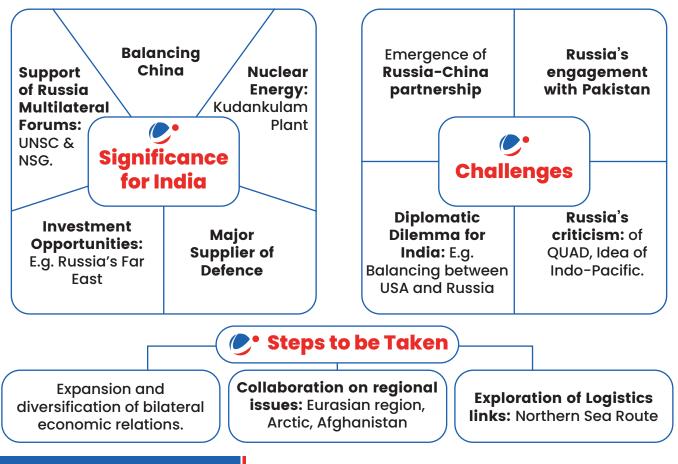
India-EU should take their relations beyond "trade lens", recognizing their important geopolitical, strategic convergences





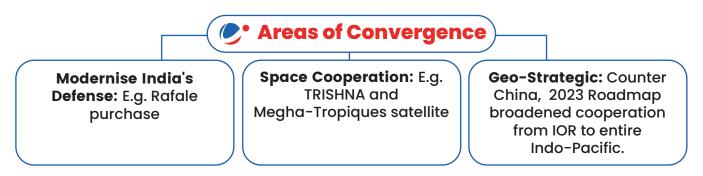
#### 4.15 India-Russia Relations

India-Russia partnership is "subject of attention not because it has changed but because it has not" (MEA)



#### 4.16 India-France Relations

India-France partnership is "universal" as it goes from the "sea to the space" and beyond.



#### **Conclusion**

As pivotal middle powers, France and India can leverage their strategic partnership to enhance multilateral engagement, fostering a more balanced multipolar order and advancing India's normative integration with the European Union.



#### 4.17 India-UK Relations

Recently, India and UK launched the **Technology Security Initiative' (TSI)** to elevate the strategic partnership



Balancing out aggressive China Indian diaspora in the UK Prospects for collaboration in defence

# **Concerns**

Failure to tackle anti-Indian activities, Diego Garcia issue: India supports Mauritius

Intervention in India's domestic politics. E.g. Kashmir

# India-UK Free Trade Agreement

#### **Benefits**

Reduced costs to Indian professionals by totalisation agreement, Boost labour-intensive sectors, De coupling from China

#### Concerns

UK seeks commitments beyond the WTO's TRIPS agreement, Liberal Rules of Origin, India's new BIT, etc.

#### Conclusion

As India seeks to carve out a new role for itself in the evolving global order as a 'leading power' and the U.K. recalibrates its strategic outlook post-Brexit, **this is a unique moment in India-U.K. ties for "quantum leap" in the relations.** 

#### 4.18 India-Italy Relations

Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the **Migration and Mobility Agreement** between India and Italy.



Italy is India's 4<sup>th</sup>
Iargest trading
partner in EU

Defense cooperation agreement (2023)

Strategic
Partnership(2023)

Italy withdrew from the **Belt and Road Initiative** 

#### Conclusion

A connection was identified between the Indo-Pacific (wherein India plays a leading role), and the enlarged Mediterranean Sea (where Italy sits at the center of the Sea and acts as a natural bridge towards the Indo-Pacific)

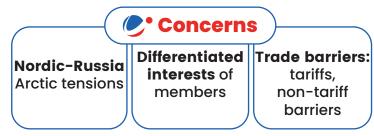






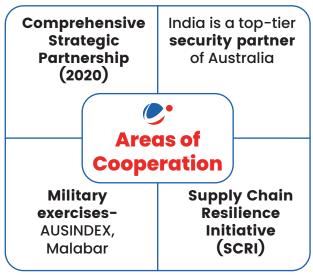
#### 4.19 India-Nordic Relations





#### 4.20 India-Australia Relations

In this complicated world, it is the trust between like-minded partners such as India and Australia that is helping to secure a free, open, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region along with a rules-based international order. (MEA)

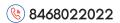




#### **Conclusion**

India and Australia being prominent players in the Indo-Pacific region are suitably placed to anchor a 'Coalition of Middle Powers' in the Indo-Pacific

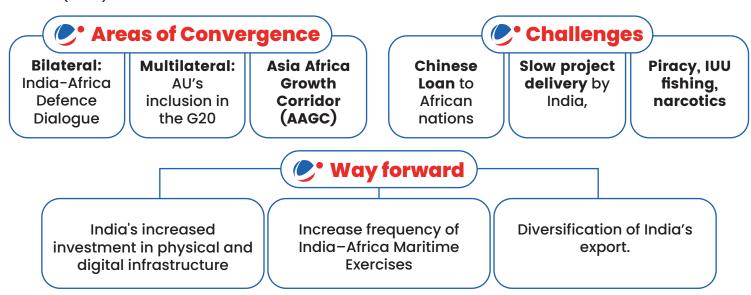




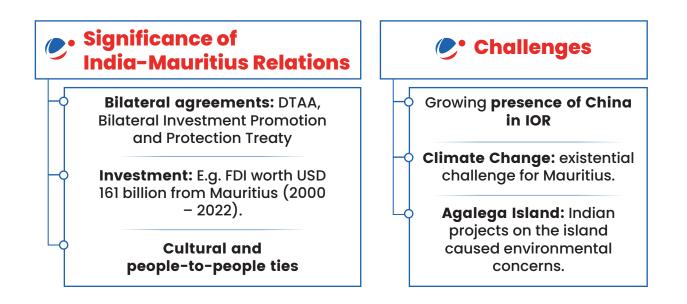


#### 4.21 India and Africa Relations

"India's priority is not just Africa; India's priority is Africans – every man, woman and child in Africa" (MEA)



#### 4.22 India-Mauritius Relations



#### Conclusion

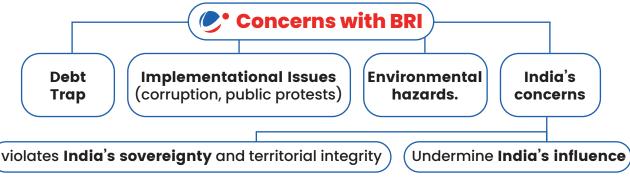
As Mauritius weighs its future policy options, both foreign policy and economic, amidst changing regional geopolitics, it is useful for India to pay attention to these crucial aspects of the nation' concerns and its identity as a SIDS.





# 5. Effect Of Policies And Politics Of Developed And Developing Countries On India's Interests

5.1 Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) celebrated 10th anniversary.



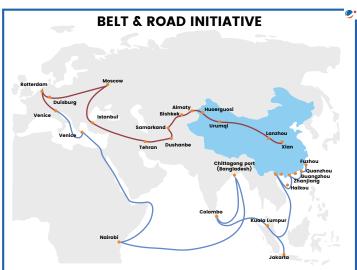
Partnership for
Global
Infrastructure
and Investment

India-Middle
East-Europe
Economic Corridor
(IMEC) initiative.

Efforts to Counter BRI

International
North South
Transport
Corridor (INSTC)

The Asia Africa
Growth Corridor
(AAGC)



#### 5.2 China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

China and Pakistan entered into six agreements to expedite cooperation under CPEC.

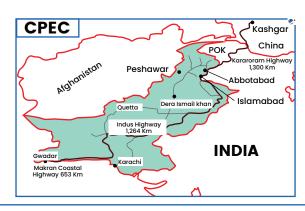
Sovereignty: passes through PoK

Strategic: China can use Pakistan as low-cost deterrent against India.

Concerns for India

Security: may facilitate cross-border terrorism

Regional Instability: increased Pakistan's dependence on China



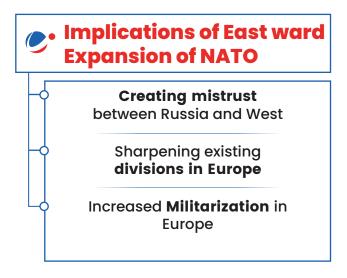


Engage diplomatically with China and Pakistan

Strengthen regional partnerships such as Blue Dot Network

#### 5.3 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

NATO marked 75 years of its formation and **Sweden has joined NATO as its 32<sup>nd</sup> member.** 





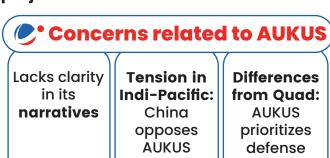
#### Conclusion

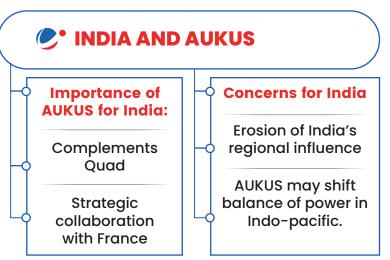
Embracing a comprehensive strategy of innovation, resilience-building, and strategic foresight will help NATO navigate complex geopolitical realities

#### **5.4 AUKUS**

AUKUS members are considering **cooperation with Japan on advanced capabilities projects.** 

partnership







# 6. Important International Institutions, Agencies, And Fora, Their Structure, Mandate

#### **6.1 Global Institutions in the Changing Times**

Major global institutions such as the UN, WTO, IMF, World Bank have been **under scrutiny for not being able to fulfil their desired objectives.** 

Western Hegemonic control, Misuse of Veto Power

Rise of alternative forums E.g.G20, G7, and BRICS, etc.



Contemporary Issues and Limitations of Global Institutions

**Rising conflicts:** Russia-Ukraine War, Israel-Palestine Conflict

**Dysfunctional dispute settlement systems:** E.g. WTO



# RELEVANCE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE CURRENT GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS

Unparalleled
Membership:
UN 193, IMF 190
etc. showcases
global trust in
these institutions

Guardian of Global Peace: Since 1948, the UN has helped end several conflicts in Cambodia, Mozambique, etc

Source and regulator of international law with institutions like UNHRC and International Court of Justice

Global Financial
Stability: IMF
and World Bank,
on several
instances have
supported
countries in their
weaker times
(including India)

Mapping Global
Development:
UN'S (SDGs)
provide a
direction
towards
collective
development



#### **Way Forward**

Governance
Overhaul: E.g.
India as a
permanent
member in UNSC.

Financing Revamp: E.g. raising private investments Empowering institutions like UNCLOS.

Leverage technologies: Al, satellite monitoring, climate crisis.



#### 6.2 UNSC at a Glance



#### Need for reform in UNSC

Outdated: no permanent representation from Africa, Latin America, Caribbean.

> Imposition of sanctions: encroaches sovereignty.

Veto power: blocks key decisions



Chaired the Taliban and Libya sanctions committees

Formulated Universal Declaration of Human Rights

First country to raise apartheid issue at UN

Largest UN Peace Keeping troops provider



#### Challenges in front of India:

Lack of consensus on the definition of terrorism

Post COVID Global Order

Lack of resources for multilateral diplomacy

#### 6.3 India and UN Peacekeeping at a Glance

Indian Army commemorated the 76th International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers (2024)



#### India's contribution to UN Peacekeeping

~2, 87,000 troops to peacekeeping missions

Trust Fund on sexual exploitation and abuse

1st country to deploy all women contingent

**Centre for UN** Peacekeeping (CUNPK) to train troops



#### **Organisational** challenges

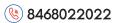
- Non-inclusive
- Inadequate power with UN secretariat
- Redundant missions



#### **Operational** challenges

- Waning international support
- Role of Regional Organisation in brokering Peace







# Reforms proposed by India

Greater role of troops and police in **decision making** 

Support regional organisations in mediation, ceasefires

Factor in "exit strategy from their very inception".

Safety of peacekeepers

#### **Conclusion**

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

#### 6.4 UNHRC at a Glance

India was re-elected to the UNHRC (2022-24) for a 6th term with overwhelming majority.



Platform for Dialogue among states, **Promote human rights education and learning**, **Reviewing Human rights record of member states**, **Encourage Civil Society Participation in** human rights.



Council seats held by countries with **human rights concerns**.

Tendency to vote in blocs

Non-binding recommendations

Procedural reforms (open ballots in Council elections) Reduce politicization and build consensus



Steps to be Taken

**Ensuring National implementation** of international human rights obligations Protecting
Human Rights
Defenders from
Reprisals

#### **Conclusion**

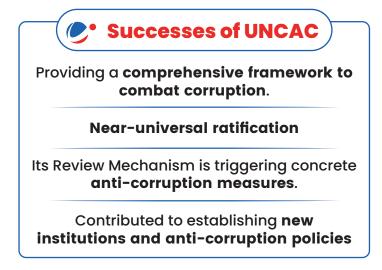
With ongoing reforms, increased member accountability, and collaborative efforts, UNHRC can more effectively promote and protect human rights worldwide, fostering a more just international order.





#### 6.5 United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

20 years of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

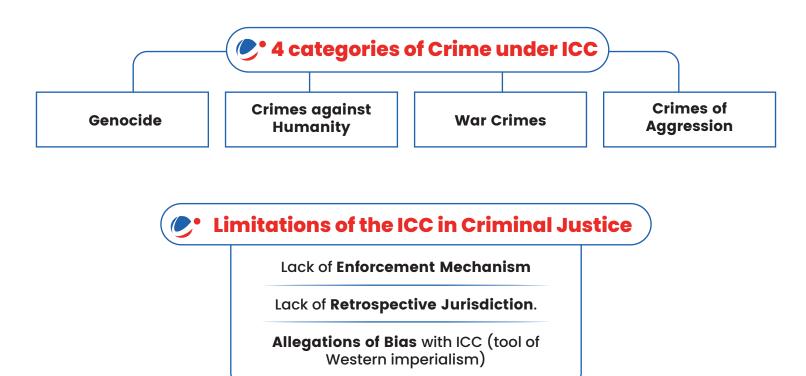




civil society engagement

#### 6.6 International Criminal Court (ICC)

ICC prosecutor sought arrest warrants for Israel's PM and Hamas leaders for committing crimes against humanity and war crimes.







Subordination of the ICC to the UN Security Council, may potentially lead to political interference.

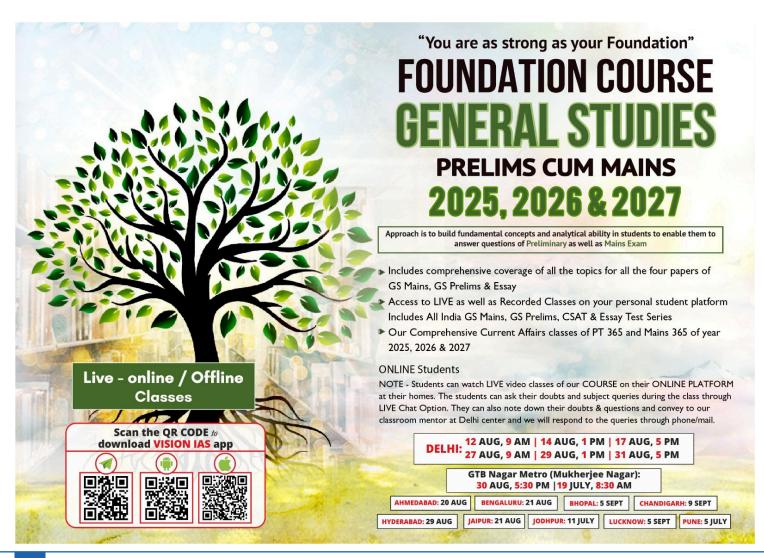
**Violates principles of** sovereignty (UNSC's power to bind non-States Parties to the ICC)



# Why did India not join the Rome Statute?

Chances of misuse for political purposes

**Exclusion of nuclear** weapons and terrorism from ICC jurisdiction





# Building Mental Resilience for UPSC CSE with VisionIAS Student Wellness Cell

The UPSC Civil Services Examination is one of the most prestigious exams in the country, bringing immense professional and personal satisfaction. However, the journey often involves overcoming loneliness, intense competition pressure, anxiety, and other psychological challenges. These issues can impact both your preparation and overall well-being.

At **VisionIAS**, we recognize the multifaceted nature of this journey. To support our students comprehensively, we have established a dedicated Student Wellness Cell. Since April 2024, our highly professional psychologists and experienced professionals have provided confidential and mindful support as per student needs.

#### From Stress Management to Academic Excellence



# Enhancing Academic Performance:

Effective stress management contributes to better academic outcomes.



# Comprehensive Wellness Cell:

Addressing various issues impacting mental health and academic performance.



# Professional Mental Health Support:

Seeking professional help is crucial for success in UPSC preparation.



# Safe and Non-Judgmental Environment:

A space for students to discuss issues and receive personalized support.



# Well-Supported Mind for Excellence:

Mental well-being is essential for achieving success in UPSC exams.



# Confidential and Structured Support:

Multiple, structured sessions based on the severity of the issues.

#### Common Issues and Our Approach

Our counseling services have addressed a variety of issues, including:



Anxiety and Hopelessness: Using Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) to promote positive thinking.



Lack of Motivation and Focus: Introducing time management strategies and SMART goal-setting.



**Emotional Struggles:** Providing a safe space for expression and techniques such as journaling and progressive muscle relaxation.



**Social Isolation and Loneliness:** Encouraging healthy social interactions and setting personal boundaries.



**Family and Personal Issues:** Offering advice on coping with family dynamics, personal loss, and significant life stressors.



To support the larger student community, **VisionIAS** is now extending our counseling and wellness support to all students preparing for UPSC CSE, regardless of their coaching institute affiliation. Schedule a session by visiting our office at Apsara Arcade near Karol Bagh Metro Station or emailing **student.wellness@visionias.in**.

Remember, seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness.



in TOP 20 Selections in CSE 2023

from various programs of Vision IAS



**Aditya Srivastava** 



**Animesh Pradhan** 



Ruhani



Srishti **Dabas** 



Anmol



Nausheen



**Aishwaryam Prajapati** 

in **TOP 50** in **CSE 20 22** 



Ishita **Kishore** 



Garima Lohia



Uma Harathi N



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