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AWSM NOTES

International

Relations

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ANALYSIS: SYLLABUS AND PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS**International Relations****1. Bilateral relations with India**

- ❖ India – Usa
- ❖ India – Russia
- ❖ India – China
- ❖ India – Pakistan
- ❖ India – Bangladesh
- ❖ India – Sri Lanka
- ❖ India – Afghanistan
- ❖ India – Nepal
- ❖ India – Maldives
- ❖ India- Middle East Countries

1. What are the main highlights of India – Israel strategic partnership? (2016, 4 Marks)
2. What is the stand of India and China over Doklam issue? (2016, 4Marks)
3. Describe the emerging cooperation between India and Russia. (2017, 8Marks)
4. Discuss about the problems and prospects in India-Iran relations in present times. (2017, 8 Marks)
5. Critically examine India-China territorial dispute. (2017, 8Marks)
6. Examine the changing contours of Indo-US relations in the post-cold war era. (2017, 20 Marks)
7. Describe India-Iran energy security relations in the wake of US sanctions. (2018, 4 Marks)
8. Discuss about the important facets of India-China border dispute. (2018, 8 Marks)
9. Describe the emerging cooperation between Indian and Russia. (2018, 8Marks)
10. Kartarpur Corridor has been in news for security and religious reasons both within India and between India and Pakistan. What is the importance of Kartarpur Corridor for India – Pakistan relations. (2019, 4 Marks)
11. India's engagement with Central Asian Republics, has been very proactive and constructive in the past few years besides love and hate relations with China. Critically analyze India's role in Shanghai Cooperation organization (SCO). (2019, 8Marks)
12. China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) is an ambitious plan to expand its economy. With this in view, describe the overall China's Belt and Road Initiative and its impact on India. (2019, 8Marks)
13. Discuss about the issues of conflict between India and China in the South China Sea. (2019, 20Marks)
14. Discuss India- Afghanistan relations after coming of Taliban regime. (2020, 4marks)
15. Analyse emerging India-America defence cooperation in the post-cold war period. (2020, 8Marks)
16. Critically examine the problem of boundary dispute between India and China. (2020, 8Marks)
17. Describe about India's role in the Russian-Ukraine war. (2021, 4Marks)
18. Discuss India's economic benefits with the development in infrastructure at Chabahar port. (2021, 8Marks)
19. Describe India's role in BRICS towards the growth of regional economic cooperation. (2021, 8Marks)
20. Discuss about defence cooperation agreements signed between India and USA during Modi's recent visit to USA. (2022, 8Marks)

2. Regions involving India and affecting its interests

- ❖ South Asia and Neighbours
- ❖ South East Asia and Look/Act East Policy
- ❖ Indo pacific
- ❖ Middle East

- ❖ Central Asia
- ❖ Global South

1. What is 'Act East Policy' of India? (2016, 4Marks)
2. Discuss India's policy towards Indo – Pacific region? (2016, 8Marks)
3. Describe the basic facets of India's 'extended neighbourhood' policy? (2016, 8Marks)
4. Describe the changing nature of India-ASEAN relations. (2017, 4Marks)
5. Examine India's neighborhood policy during Modi's regime. (2017, 4 Marks)
6. Describe the changing nature of India-ASEAN relations (2018, 4 Marks)
7. Examine the importance of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in fulfilling India's interests in Central Asia. (2018, 8 Marks)
8. Developments in South China Sea are seen to be trigger for the third world war. India has joined the QUAD and has strategic interests in the region. With this in view, describe politics of Indo - Pacific region and policy options for India. (2019, 8Marks)
9. Examine India's 'Gujral Doctrine'. (2020, 4Marks)
10. Discuss about India's policy of Panchsheel. (2021, 4Marks)
11. Examine India's Policy of "Act East". (2021, 4Marks)
12. Explain how India benefitted from the signing of the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Deal. (2021, 4Marks)
13. Discuss about the India's role in SCO. (2022, 4Marks)
14. Discuss in detail about problem of boundaries between India and China. (2022, 8Marks)

3. Important international Institutions their structure and mandate

- ❖ UN
- ❖ UNSC
- ❖ UNPK
- ❖ WB
- ❖ G20

1. What do you mean by democratization of the United Nations? (2016, 4 Marks)
2. Discuss India's role in the World Bank. (2017, 4 marks)
3. Assess about India's chance to attain United Nations Security Council (UNSC) permanent seat. (2018, 4Marks)
4. Examine India's Role in the UN Peace-Keeping activities in the post-cold war era. (2018, 8Marks)
5. United Nation is facing a number of existential challenges. What is meant by democratization of the United Nation? (2019, 4 Marks)
6. Examine India's role in UN Peace-keeping activities. (2020, 8Marks)
7. Discuss India's role in the establishment of peace through UN Peacekeeping. (2022, 8Marks)

4. Indian Diaspora

1. Analyse role diaspora in the making of India's Foreign Policy. (2017, 4 Marks)
2. Analyse the contributions of Indian Diaspora in the realization of India's Foreign Policy goals. (2020, 20Marks)
3. Analyse the role of Indian Diaspora in India's Foreign policy. (2022, 4Marks)

4. Foreign Policy

- ❖ Historical developments in India's Foreign policy
- ❖ Soft Power/ Hard Power
- ❖ Strategic Partnership/ Strategic Autonomy
- ❖ Multi-aligned approach
- ❖ Global South

- ❖ Energy Security
- ❖ Maritime Security
- ❖ Nuclear Doctrine
- ❖ Current Developments

1. What is the importance of energy security in India's Foreign policy? (2016, 8Marks)
2. Can India be acknowledged as a major global power in the light of its 'hard' and soft power capabilities? (2016, 20 Marks)
3. Analyse the challenges of non-traditional security threats for India's Foreign Policy. (2017, 8 Marks)
4. Critically examine the maritime threats faced by India in the 21st Century. (2018, 20 Marks)
5. Energy is the most vital factor to development of economy of any nation. India has made substantial progress in harnessing the renewable energy resources in past few years. However, still there are problems to be surmounted. With this in view, examine the major challenges to India's energy security policy. (2019, 8Marks)
6. Analyze India's policy of 'Strategic Partnership'. (2020, 4Marks)
7. Discuss in detail about India's foreign direct investment policy. (2020, 8Marks)
8. Describe "Hard Power" attributes of India's foreign policy. (2021, 8Marks)
9. Critically examine the major tenets of India's Nuclear Policy. (2022, 20 Marks)
10. Describe about India's Maritime Security Policy 'SAGAR'. (2022, 4Marks)
11. Explain about India's Energy Security Policy. (2022, 8Marks)
12. Examine India's Role in changing World Order. (2022, 20Marks)

QUESTION BANK

1. What is soft power? How is it strength for India in international relations?
2. What do you understand by Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty? Discuss its success in preventing nuclear proliferation around the world along with concerns remaining. State India's stand on NPT.
3. Briefly explain the dispute settlement system of WTO.
4. Indian diaspora policy's evolution from non-interference to active engagement in recent times has its own challenges. Critically examine.
5. Indian Diaspora contributes to leveraging India's economic interests and shaping its foreign policy. In this context, discuss challenges faced by the Indian Diaspora and Steps taken by India for enhancing engagement with them.
6. There is increasing turbulence in the world. In the light of this statement, Critically Examine the role of United Nations.
7. Do you think that the United Nations (UN) is losing its significance? Critically comment. What are reforms that are pending from long time in the United Nations (UN)?
8. UN Peacekeeping requires reforms to keep its operations fit-for-purpose. In this context, discuss the challenges faced by the UN Peacekeeping. Also, suggest reforms to improve its operations.
9. Discuss the reasons why India didn't sign the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
10. State the functions of the United Nations Human Rights Council.
11. State the significance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
12. Discuss the major reservations of India with respect to the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
13. Critically analyse the International Criminal Court's (ICC's) role in maintaining international peace and justice.
14. Meaningful reform of UNSC will enhance its legitimacy, effectiveness and representativeness. Discuss.
15. Discuss the reforms that must be undertaken to strengthen the World Trade Organization in order to address the vulnerabilities in the present global trading system.
16. Give the structure and mandate of world bank.
17. Discuss the mandate and objectives of International monetary funds.
18. Briefly explain the WHO objective and its function.
19. What is the United Nations Organization structure and objectives?
20. What is the structure and the mandate of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)?.
21. Discuss the role played by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the field of nuclear safety.

BILATERAL RELATIONS OF INDIA USA

Strategic Partnership: Based on **shared democratic values and Increasing convergence** of interests on bilateral, regional and global issues.

- In 2016, the U.S. recognised India as a “**Major Defence Partner**.”
- Cooperation in Indo pacific Region (IPEF, QUAD) grouping, **India will host the next Quad Leaders’ Summit** in 2024
- Another grouping in the Middle East - I2U2 termed as the new Quad.
- **USA supported India in expansion of the UN Security Council’s** permanent and non-permanent membership in 2028-29.
- The 2+2 meetings have been held annually with the US leaders since 2018

Trade: The US is the major export hub for Indian goods.

- India-US Trade Policy Forum was established in 2005.
- Bilateral trade amounts to \$128.55 billion and India has a trade surplus of \$19.59 billion.

Defence:

US (11%) is India’s 3rd largest defence supplier after Russia (~45%) and France (~29%);

- Military exercises like Yudh Abhyaas, Vajra prahar, Malabar, RIMPAC etc. ;
- **The India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X).**
- to co-produce **GE’s F414** combat aircraft engines in India. India intends to procure armed MQ-9B SeaGuardian UAVs
- Major Defence agreements signed with India like:
 - ❖ Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), 2016
 - ❖ Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), 2018
 - ❖ Industrial Security Agreement, 2019
 - ❖ Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) 2020

India and the United States have agreed to initiate negotiations for a ‘**Security of Supply**’ (SoS) arrangement and a ‘**Reciprocal Defence Procurement**’ (RDP) agreement, aiming to promote long-term supply chain stability and enhance security and defense cooperation between both countries.

- A SoS agreement is a bilateral or multilateral agreement between countries aimed at **ensuring the availability and stability of critical supplies**, particularly in the field of defense and security.
- An RDP agreement is a bilateral agreement between countries in **the field of defense procurement**. It is designed to facilitate reciprocal procurement of defense items and promote cooperation in research, development, and production of defense equipment.

Diaspora: With a population of more than 4.9 million, Indian Americans make up approximately 1.35% of the U.S. population. Indian diaspora forms the second largest immigrant group in US after the Mexicans.

Space

- **NISAR, Artemis Accords** to participate in peaceful and sustainable civil exploration of outer space, iCET etc
- NASA will provide advanced training to Indian astronauts with the goal of mounting a joint effort to the International Space Station (ISS) in 2024.

Sustainable Development:

- co-leading the Hydrogen Breakthrough Agenda,
- Initiatives are in place to decarbonize the transportation sector and promote biofuels,

- US Agency for International Development will support Indian Railways' target to become a "net-zero" carbon emitter by 2030.

New Areas

1. US Welcomed India's leadership role in Quad Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness Initiative (IPMDA) announced by U.S. in 2022, to promote a free and open Pacific. o It intends to connect regional partners and allies with American technologies to provide greater maritime situational awareness in real-time
2. **Strengthening Semiconductor Supply Chains, Critical Minerals Partnership, Bharat 6G** from India and the **US Next G Alliance** , **Fibre Optics Investments, Renewable Energy Technologies Action Platform [RE-TAP]**.
3. **Quantum, Advanced Computing, and Artificial Intelligence:** The Joint Indo-US Quantum Coordination Mechanism, India's leadership as **Chair of the Global Partnership** on AI was commended
4. The Indian prime minister **addressed the joint session** of the US Congress where he refer **Artificial Intelligence (AI) as America and India (AI)**.
5. **U.S.-India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology**

A Significant step towards strengthening their strategic partnership and driving technology and defense cooperation.

A roadmap for enhanced collaboration in high-technology areas.

- ❖ Addressing regulatory barriers, aligning export controls, and fostering deeper cooperation in critical and emerging fields.
- ❖ Both countries have **identified six areas of cooperation** which would include co-development and co-production, that would gradually be expanded to QUAD, then to NATO, followed by Europe and the rest of the world.
- ❖ Under iCET, **India is ready to share its core technologies** with the US and **expects Washington to do the same.**
- ❖ It aims to promote collaboration in critical and emerging technology areas, **including AI, quantum computing, semiconductors, and wireless telecommunication.**

Challenges

1. India cannot be termed as a 'US ally' due to its foreign policy **approach of non-alignment.**
2. India's '**Multi-Aligned**' Foreign Policy, seeking positive ties as far and as widely as possible.
3. Two countries have quite **contradictory responses towards the [Russia Ukraine](#) crisis**, Afghanistan issue and Iran.
4. India's Engagement with **US Adversaries** Russia and Iran, Member of SCO, buy S-400 Triumf long-range missiles from Russia
5. America withdrew special trade privileges granted to India under the **Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)**
6. **US cap on H-1B visas** or restrictions on work visas that inhibit Indian workers to move to the US
7. The US has **criticised India's data localisation and the draft e-commerce policy**, calling it "most discriminatory and trade-distortive"

Way Forward

1. Moving Ahead with Multi-Alignment
2. Stabilising the Asian balance of power and coping with Beijing's assertiveness in Asia.
3. India's economic rise would be in the US' interest just as much as US leadership of technology enablers and global affairs would be in India's.
4. This reality must not be lost in noise over India's neutrality on the world stage and its refusal to be bound by a NATO-like-bloc.

BILATERAL RELATIONS OF INDIA – RUSSIA

Foundational Aspects

- **Mutual Trust:** Relationship grounded in deep mutual trust.
- **Foreign Policy:** Shared goal of a multipolar world order.
- **Partnership Areas:** Military, security, and nuclear energy.
- **Strategic Partnership:** Established in 2000, elevated to “special and privileged” in 2010.

Recent Developments

- **22nd India-Russia Annual Summit:** Held in Moscow with PM Modi and President Putin to address geopolitical tensions.
 - ❖ The summit ended without the signing of the long-awaited [Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement \(RELOS\)](#). The agreement would have provided logistical support for military operations between Russia and India.
- **Diplomatic Achievement:** Putin awarded PM Modi the “Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle,” Russia’s highest civilian honor.

Economic Cooperation

- **Trade Target:** USD 100 billion by 2030 (up from USD 30 billion by 2025).
 - ❖ **Reason for Increase:** Higher imports of discounted Russian crude due to Western sanctions.
- **Programme-2030:** Comprehensive plan for economic cooperation, coordinated by IIRGC-TEC.
- **Free Trade Agreements:**
 - ❖ **Eurasian Economic Union:** Negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement on goods.
 - ❖ They also plan to explore a bilateral free-trade agreement in services and investments.
- **Investment Initiatives:**
 - ❖ **Make in India:** Facilitate Russian businesses’ participation and joint manufacturing of defense equipment.
 - ❖ Establishment of a new Working Group to discuss its provisions in the next meeting of **Intergovernmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC)**.

Transport and Connectivity

- **Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Corridor:** Sea link reducing transport time by 40%.
- **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC):** Multi-modal route enhancing Eurasian transportation.

International Cooperation

- **UN Security Council:** Russia supports India’s permanent membership in a reformed council.
- **BRICS:** India supports Russia’s 2024 Chairship theme “Strengthening Multilateralism.”
- **Multilateral Forums:** Collaboration in UN, G20, BRICS, and SCO.
- **Future Initiatives:**
 - ❖ International Solar Alliance (ISA)
 - ❖ Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
 - ❖ International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

Other Areas of Cooperation

1. **Defence:** Russia accounts for 60% of total arms imports by India, Working together on Brahmos Missile, S-400 deal, **Indra Tri-Service exercise**
2. **Energy:** Russia has one of the largest reserves of Natural Gas in the world. India's ONGC videsh has acquired 20% stakes in Sakhalin oil and gas plant
3. **Nuclear:** Russia is the only foreign country involved in Nuclear Energy production in India. Both are also working to jointly develop nuclear energy plant in Bangladesh (Rooppur power plant).
4. Both sides are in talks to resort to the **Rupee-Ruble mechanism** to safeguard bilateral trade from the impact of western sanctions.

How did India handle the Ukraine Crisis?

1. **Following Non-Alignment Policy:** balance in the growing polarisation between the U.S. and the [European Union](#) on one side, and Russia on the other.
On one side the Indian Prime Minister made his discomfort with the war calls "This era is not for war" to Russian President and On the other hand **refused to accept western sanctions on Russia**
2. **Refusing to Vote on the Resolution** seeking to censure Russia for the invasion and humanitarian crisis, India chose to abstain.
3. Prime Minister Modi reiterated his call for **dialogue and diplomacy** in addressing the situation.

Impact of War:**Increase in Trade Cooperation:**

1. India's total bilateral trade with Russia stood at ~USD 13 Billion in 2021-22 and USD 8.14 Billion in 2020-21.
2. Russia is India's seventh biggest trading partner, up from 25th position in 2021.
3. The sudden jump in imports from Russia, mainly oil and fertilizers, which began to surge earlier in 2022, is the main driver behind this increase in bilateral trade.
4. Petroleum oil and other fuel items accounted for 84% of India's total imports from Russia, while Fertilizers were second.
5. Together, fertilizers and fuel accounted for over 91% of the total imports from Russia this year.

Challenges Faced by the Defense S-400 Deal:

1. The S-400 deal has faced complications, including concerns about U.S. sanctions Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) and delays in milestone payments. The war in Ukraine has compounded challenges in executing the deal.
2. Delays in S-400 Deliveries While three regiments have been delivered, the delivery of the remaining two regiments is delayed. The revised schedule remains uncertain until payment issues are resolved.
3. Delivery of two Krivak-Class Stealth Frigates under construction in Russia for the Indian Navy is further delayed.

Payment Crisis:

1. An estimated USD 3 billion payments are currently held up due to payment challenges. Efforts to resolve this crisis through a Rupee-Rouble Arrangement have not been successful due to trade imbalances and accumulating Rupees on the Russian side.
2. Due to Russia's Exclusion from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) system, India and Russia had adopted a Rupee-Rouble payment mechanism to settle payments for defence deals.
3. While small payments have resumed, larger payments remain stuck, creating challenges in completing ongoing and future deals.

Challenges

1. India's desire to **diversification of its defence imports**, Sanctions on Russia under CAATSA
2. Growing India-US relationship
3. Various issues in Indo-Russia trade are **Lack of involvement of private sector, Poor connectivity- stalling of International North-South Transport corridor and Weak banking links.**
4. The sanctions on Russia post Ukraine War by the **West has pushed Russia closer to the China**
5. **Weak Diaspora** and People to people ties between the country
6. Russia has also removed **Arms embargo on Pakistan in 2014** and since then both countries have also conducted **joint military exercise.**

WAY FORWARD

1. Establishing new areas of cooperation such as trade, connectivity etc.
2. Creation of FTA between India and Eurasian Economic Union
3. India can explore possibility of Russian involvement in Chabahar project to ensure access to Afghanistan and central Asia and speed up INSTC
4. Both countries have shared interest in Multipolar world order.
5. Both can work in global platforms to avoid the new cold war between the USA and China with the help of like-minded countries.

BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CHINA

India's foreign policy is currently facing its largest test in managing relations with China. Recently, India and China Commemorated the 72nd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between them on April 1, 2023,

Areas of Cooperation

1. Bilateral trade reaching US\$100 billion by 2022.
2. combined market of over 2.7 billion people and a GDP: 20% of the world
3. Joint military exercise: 'Hand in Hand'
4. India and China are both members of **BRICS**, **The New Development Bank (NDB)** and the **Contingency Reserve Arrangement (CRA)** are initiatives under BRICS
5. Both India and China are members of the **SCO**, allows for engagement and collaboration on regional and international affairs.
6. The **RIC platform** brings together Russia, India, and China to facilitate common positions on global challenges, discuss radical ideas, counter terrorism threats, and address issues related to Afghanistan and West Asia.
7. Both India and China are founding members of the **AIIB**, a multilateral development bank that aims to address infrastructure needs in Asia.
8. India and China have **collaborated within the WTO framework** on various issues related to trade and agriculture.

Challenges

1. **Border Disputes: "2023 edition of the standard map of China"**, which continues to show the entire State of Arunachal Pradesh and the Aksai Chin region within China's borders. China claims approximately 90,000 sq km of Arunachal Pradesh as part of its territory, referring to it as **"Zangnan" or "South Tibet"** in Chinese maps.
 - ❖ **Western Sector:** The Aksai Chin region is a territorial dispute where both countries claim it as part of their own territory.
 - ❖ **Middle Sector:** China stakes claim over an area in Uttarakhand, creating a border dispute.
 - ❖ **Eastern Sector:** The McMahon Line, the boundary between India and Tibet, is disputed by China.
 - ❖ **Johnson Line vs. McDonald Line:** India and China hold different positions on the demarcation of the border.

2. **Water Dispute:** China's construction of dams in the upper reaches of the Brahmaputra River (Tsangpo) without a formal water-sharing treaty poses a threat to India, leading to concerns over water availability and flooding.
3. **Dalai Lama and Tibet:** protests staged by Tibetans against China in India
4. China issuing **stapled visas** to residents of Arunachal Pradesh **questions India's sovereignty and territorial integrity.**
5. China **criticizes India's role and relationship with Bhutan and Nepal**, attempting to influence their ties and play the "China card" against India.
6. **India opposes China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, particularly the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which passes through Indian territory claimed by Pakistan.
7. **China-Pakistan Nexus:** China's support to Pakistan in military, nuclear, and missile capabilities, along with blocking India's efforts at the UN, creates concerns for India's security.
8. **String of Pearls:** China's strategic presence and infrastructure development in various countries surrounding India, such as Sri Lanka, Pakistan, the Maldives, Bangladesh, and Myanmar, raise concerns about encirclement.
9. **South China Sea:** China's territorial claims pose concerns for freedom of navigation and stability in the region, which affects India's strategic interests.
10. These challenges have contributed to strained relations between India and China and require diplomatic efforts and negotiations to address and resolve the disputes

Military Confrontations:

2020 **Galwan Valley** confrontation in Ladakh

2017 **Doklam plateau** standoff at Bhutan and Sikkim Border

2015 **Depsang plains** in Northern Ladakh

2014 **Chumar** in eastern Ladakh

Way forward

1. **Enhance Track II Diplomacy**
 - ❖ **Issue:** Lack of trust between China and India.
 - ❖ **Solution:** Active Track II diplomacy to build confidence and foster dialogue.
 - ❖ **Example:** BCIM (Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar) economic corridor as a result of Track II discussions.
2. **Increase High-Level International Dialogues**
 - ❖ **Platforms:** Engage more frequently in international gatherings such as:
 - ❖ East Asia Summit (EAS)
 - ❖ Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)
 - ❖ Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA)
 - ❖ BRICS
 - ❖ G-20
3. **Address Border Disputes**
 - ❖ **Current Focus:** Maintain peace and stability in border regions.
 - ❖ **Goal:** Work collaboratively to resolve boundary disputes quickly and peacefully.

Global Grouping Of China Affecting India's Interest

China's Global Security Initiative (GSI)

Overview

- **Proposed By:** Chinese President Xi Jinping.

- ❖ **Purpose:** Counter the US Indo-Pacific strategy and the Quad (India, US, Australia, Japan).

Key Elements

1. Asian Security Model

- ❖ **Objective:** Promote a security framework that is “common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable.”
- ❖ **Vision:** Develop an Asian security model based on mutual respect, openness, and integration.

2. Opposing Sanctions

- ❖ **Stance:** Opposes the use of unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction, targeting Western sanctions.

3. Countering New Cold War

- ❖ **Critique:** Challenges the Indo-Pacific strategy, which is seen as divisive and potentially creating a new Cold War.
- ❖ **Military Alliances:** Criticizes attempts to form an ‘Asian version of NATO’ through military alliances.

4. Indivisible Security Principle

- ❖ **Concept:** Emphasizes that no country should enhance its own security at the expense of others.
- ❖ **Context:** Addresses growing threats from unilateralism, hegemony, power politics, and increasing deficits in peace, security, trust, and governance.

Goals

- **Unified Security:** Promote a more inclusive and cooperative security environment in Asia.
- **Challenge Hegemony:** Push back against what China perceives as attempts by other powers to undermine regional stability and security through unilateral actions and alliances.

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

Overview

- **Adopted:** 2013 by the Chinese government.
- **Previous Name:** One Belt One Road (OBOR).
- **Scope:** Invests in nearly 70 countries and international organizations.

Key Aspects

1. Economic and Industrial Might:

- ❖ Represents China’s ambitions for global, political, and strategic influence.

2. Global Influence:

- ❖ Aims to leverage China’s global influence and potentially alter established global rules, challenging Western powers.

3. Target Markets:

- ❖ Focuses on least developed and developing nations for investment and influence.

4. Strategic Positioning:

- ❖ Strengthens China’s presence in Eurasia, positioning it advantageously over Asia’s heartland.

Concerns and Criticisms

1. **New Colonialism:**
 - ❖ Critics view BRI as a modern version of colonialism or a 21st-century Marshall Plan.
2. **Debt Trap Policy:**
 - ❖ Accused of extending excessive credit to countries to extract economic or political concessions.
3. **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC):**
 - ❖ A flagship project of BRI, seen by India as infringing on its sovereignty.
4. **Strategic Encroachment:**
 - ❖ China's activities, such as the construction of Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka, are viewed as detrimental to India's strategic interests, providing China with a critical location in the Indian Ocean.

In 2023, PGII comes in news after its repeated mention in G20 meetings, looked as alternative of BRI

Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII)**Overview**

- **Announced:** 2021 during the G7 summit in the UK.
- **Purpose:** Collaborative effort by G7 countries to fund infrastructure projects in developing nations.
- **Objective:** Serve as an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- **Focus:** Transparency, sustainability, and gender equality.
- **Funding Model:** Emphasizes loans over charity, aiming for mutual benefits for lending and receiving countries.

Key Initiatives Under PGII

1. **Trans-African Corridor**
 - ❖ **Scope:** Connects Lobito port in Angola with Katanga province in Congo and the copper belt in Zambia.
2. **Clean Energy Projects in Indonesia**
 - ❖ **Goal:** Support sustainable energy sources and infrastructure development.
3. **Investments in India's Health Infrastructure**
 - ❖ **Funding:** Over \$15 million pledged by the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC).
 - ❖ **Focus:** Eye clinics and women's hygiene products.
4. **EU's Global Gateway Program**
 - ❖ **Investment:** ₹300 billion (\$300 billion USD) committed by the European Union.
 - ❖ **Focus:** Critical connectivity projects, especially in Africa and various global regions.

BILATERAL RELATIONS OF INDIA PAKISTAN**Indus Water Treaty (IWT)**

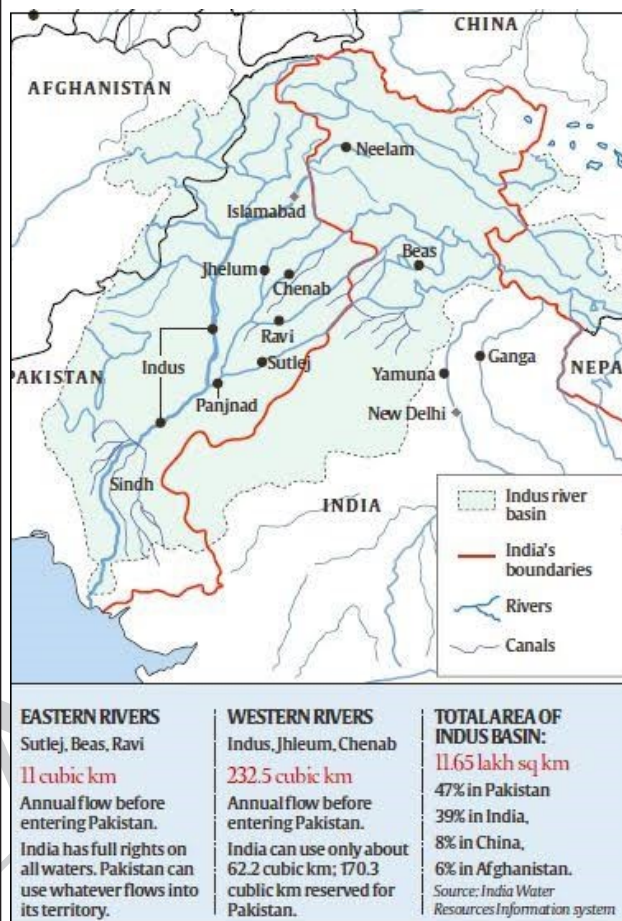
Recently, India announced the desire to modify the **62-year-old Indus Water Treaty (IWT)** with Pakistan, citing what it called Pakistan's unwillingness to find a solution to disputes over the Kishanganga and Rattle hydropower projects, both in Jammu and Kashmir. India also protested Pakistan's "unilateral" decision to approach a court of arbitration at The Hague in the Netherlands.

India called for modifications to the treaty as per Article XII (3) of the IWT which specify that provisions of the treaty may from time to time be modified for any specific purpose between the two Governments. India also boycotted the

court process as the first hearing of the Pakistani case began at the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague.

The decision to issue notice to Pakistan, with a request for a response within 90 days, is a major step and could lead to the unravelling and renegotiation of the water sharing treaty. The treaty is often seen as a rare example of India-Pakistan consensus, at a time when the two countries have snapped trade and cultural exchanges, and most bilateral talks.

1. **Indus Water Treaty (1960)** is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan, brokered by the World Bank (WB), to use the water available in the Indus River and its tributaries.
2. The Treaty gives control over the waters of the **three “eastern rivers”** – the Beas, Ravi and Sutlej (BRS)-to India.
3. Control over the waters of the **three “western rivers”** – the Indus, Chenab and Jhelum -has been given to Pakistan.
4. **India has about 20%** of the total water carried by the Indus system **while Pakistan has 80%**.
5. The treaty allows India to use the western river waters for **limited irrigation use** and unlimited non-consumptive use for such applications as power generation.
6. India has the right to generate hydroelectricity through run-of-the-river (RoR) projects on the western rivers which, subject to specific criteria for design and operation, is unrestricted.
7. **The dispute redressal mechanism provided under the IWT is a graded 3-level mechanism.**
8. Under the IWT, whenever India plans to start a project, it has to inform Pakistan.
9. The concerns have to be cleared at the levels of the Indus Commissioners □ Neutral Expert □ Court of Arbitration, in a graded manner.



Present Contention:

1. Exercising judicial recourse to settle the competing claims and objections.
2. They arise out of the construction and design elements of the **run-of-river hydroelectric projects** that India is permitted under the IWT to construct on the tributaries of the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab before these rivers flow into Pakistan.
3. **Pakistan initiated arbitration at the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration** to address the interpretation and application of the IWT to certain design elements of two run-of-river hydroelectric projects:
 - ❖ On the Kishanganga (a tributary of the Jhelum)
 - ❖ Ratle-a hydro-electric project on the Chenab.
4. **India raised objections** as it views that the Court of Arbitration is not competent to consider the questions. Such questions should instead be decided through the neutral expert process.
5. Court unanimously passed a decision (which is binding on both parties without appeal) rejecting each of India's objections.

Future supply of water:

1. Judicial recourse appears to be the only rational strategy by the IWT parties.
2. It is not likely to address the rapidly growing industrial needs of the two countries, apart from food and energy needs.
3. The IWT provides only “some element of predictability and certainty with regard to the future supplies of water to the riparian states.
4. It needs to incorporate mechanisms that allow flexibility to changes in the quantity of water available for allocation among the parties (Paper in Water Policy, the official journal of the World Water Council)

Issues with the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

1. **Vulnerability to Climate Change**
 - ❖ Bilateral water agreements, including the IWT, are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
2. **Fixed Water Allocations**
 - ❖ Agreements are based on fixed allocations of water, assuming future availability will remain unchanged.
3. **Partitioning Logic**
 - ❖ The IWT's allocation of proprietary rights to India for eastern rivers and Pakistan for western rivers does not account for future changes in water availability.
4. **Obligations for Eastern Rivers**
 - ❖ Pakistan is obligated to allow the flow of eastern rivers and must not interfere with their waters.
5. **Obligations for Western Rivers**
 - ❖ India must allow all waters of the western rivers to flow into Pakistan, with exceptions for certain uses.
6. **Hydro-Electric Power Generation**
 - ❖ India is permitted to use western rivers for hydro-electric power generation before the waters flow into Pakistan.
7. **Impact of Climate Change**
 - ❖ Climate change affects the form, intensity, and timing of precipitation and runoff, disrupting assumptions about water supplies.
8. **Inaccurate Assumptions**
 - ❖ Assumptions about water availability for agriculture and industrial needs may no longer be accurate.
9. **River Basin Management**
 - ❖ The treaty's partitioning approach contradicts the principle of managing entire river basins as unified entities to build resource capacity.

Way Forward

Article 7 of treaty: It talks about future cooperation — discussing and broadening transboundary governance issues in holistic terms. It could be the starting point for any potential diplomatic handshake.

It is suggested in Article 10 of the 1997 Convention to lean on “vital human needs” in the context of the ERU and the NHR. The inclusion of these principles in the IWT will help in erasing the differences.

Equitable and Reasonable Utilization (ERU): ERU, as defined in the 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses, involves factors like climate change and prioritizes water usage for “vital human needs.”

Principle of No Harm (NHR): The NHR places a due diligence obligation on riparian states to prevent harm to other states when undertaking projects with potential transboundary effects on shared watercourses.

The ERU and NHR are binding on both countries as they are customary international law rules generating the binding obligation to both parties. The inclusion of these principles in the IWT will ensure predictability to a certain extent.

The World Bank (party to the IWT) may use its forum to forge a transnational alliance of epistemic communities (who share a common interest and knowledge of the use of the Indus waters).

Thus, revisiting the IWT is a much needed step.

INDIA-BANGLADESH

Bilateral Meet (June 21-22, 2024)

Key Highlights

1. Future-Oriented Partnership:

- ❖ **Vision:** Aligns with India’s “Viksit Bharat 2047” and Bangladesh’s “Smart Bangladesh Vision 2041”.
- ❖ **Focus:** Aims for a future-oriented partnership leveraging shared progress and aspirations.

➤ Transformative Connectivity:

- ❖ **Multi-Modal Transport:** Enhance cross-border trade and transport.
- ❖ **Transit Facilities:** India to extend facilities for Bangladeshi goods to Nepal and Bhutan.
- ❖ **BBIN Agreement:** Operationalize the BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement.

➤ Power and Energy Collaboration:

- ❖ **Intra-Regional Trade:** Develop electricity trade, including clean energy from India, Nepal, and Bhutan.
- ❖ **Grid Interconnections:** Expedite construction of high-capacity grid links.

➤ Digital and Green Partnership:

- ❖ **Technologies:** Collaborate on digital and green technologies.
- ❖ **Joint Satellite:** Develop a small satellite for Bangladesh.

➤ Trade and Investment:

- ❖ **CEPA Negotiations:** Initiate talks for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.
- ❖ **Special Economic Zones:** Operationalize zones in Bangladesh.

➤ Water Resource Management:

- ❖ **Data Exchange:** Enhance data sharing and develop interim water-sharing frameworks.
- ❖ **Treaties:** Renew Ganges Water Sharing Treaty and manage Teesta River.

➤ Defence Cooperation:

- ❖ **Modernization:** Strengthen defence ties and modernize Bangladesh Armed Forces.
- ❖ **Industrial Cooperation:** Enhance military engagement and cooperation.

➤ Development Cooperation:

- ❖ **Capacity Building:** Focus on training for civil services, judiciary, police, and specialized services.

- **Cultural and Historical Ties:**
 - ❖ **Exchanges:** Promote scholarly, artistic, and educational exchanges.
 - ❖ **Support for Mukti Joddhas:** New programs for medical and educational support.
- **Cross-Border Travel:**
 - ❖ **e-Medical Visa:** Extend facilities to Bangladeshi citizens.
 - ❖ **New Assistant High Commission:** Open in Rangpur for better consular services.
- **Essential Commodities:**
 - ❖ **Support:** Provide essential commodities to Bangladesh based on availability.
- **Youth Development:**
 - ❖ **Partnerships:** Accelerate collaborations in education, skilling, sports, and creative industries.
- **Indo-Pacific Cooperation:**
 - ❖ **Security and Inclusivity:** Support a free and secure Indo-Pacific region.
 - ❖ **IPOI Pillar:** Co-lead 'Disaster Risk Reduction and Management' efforts.
- **Regional and Global Cooperation:**
 - ❖ **Regional Integration:** Strengthen ties under BIMSTEC, SAARC, and IORA.
 - ❖ **Global Platforms:** Work together on global issues, focusing on the Global South.

Historical Ties

- **Foundation:** Established during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War with Indian military and material support.
- **Early Challenges:** Relations strained in the 1970s due to boundary disputes, insurgency, and water-sharing issues.
- **New Era:** Improved relations since 1996 under Sheikh Hasina with treaties like the Ganga Water Sharing Agreement.

Economic Cooperation

- **Trade Growth:** Bilateral trade reached USD 18 billion in 2021-2022; previously USD 10.8 billion in 2020-2021, though affected by COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine War.
- **Trade Partnership:** Bangladesh is India's largest South Asian trade partner; India is Bangladesh's second largest.
- **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA):**
 - ❖ **Feasibility Study:** Concluded in 2022.
 - ❖ **Significance:** Important as Bangladesh will lose LDC status post-2026, affecting duty-free access to India.
- **Free Trade Agreement (FTA):** Bangladesh keen to finalize an FTA with India and pursue the China-backed RCEP, raising concerns for India.

Infrastructure

- **Lines of Credit:** India extended over USD 7 billion in credit since 2010.
- **Resolved Issues:**
 - ❖ **Land Boundary Agreement (LBA):** Finalized in 2015.
 - ❖ **Maritime Dispute:** Resolved territorial waters issues.
- **Transport Links:**
 - ❖ **Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link:** Connects Bangladesh with Northeast India, enhancing access to Chattogram

and Mongla ports.

- ❖ **BIMSTEC Master Plan:** Aims to connect major transport projects in the region.
- ❖ **Matarbari Port:** Being developed by Bangladesh to connect Dhaka with Northeast India.

Energy

- **Electricity Imports:** Bangladesh imports nearly 2,000 MW from India.
- **Nuclear Cooperation:** Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project, Bangladesh's first nuclear reactor, involves collaboration with Russia and India.

Defence Cooperation

- **Border:** Shares a 4096.7 km land boundary with India.
- **Joint Exercises:**
 - ❖ **Army:** Exercise Sampriti.
 - ❖ **Navy:** Exercise Bongo Sagar.

Multilateral Cooperation

- **Regional Forums:** Active in SAARC, BIMSTEC, and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

Points of Tension

- **Transboundary River Waters:**
 - ❖ **Common Rivers:** 54 shared rivers; treaties exist for Ganga and Koshiyara.
 - ❖ **Negotiations:** Teesta and Feni rivers still under discussion.
- **Illegal Migration:**
 - ❖ **Concerns:** Refugees and economic migrants strain Indian border states, intensified by Rohingya influx.
 - ❖ **NRC Issues:** Raised concerns in Bangladesh; Bangladesh seeks Indian support for Rohingya repatriation.
- **Drug Smuggling & Trafficking:**
 - ❖ **Challenges:** Cross-border drug smuggling, human trafficking, and poaching issues.
- **Chinese Influence:**
 - ❖ **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):** Bangladesh's involvement could undermine India's regional standing and strategic interests.

Way Forward

- **Joint Task Forces:** Form teams from both countries to combat cross-border drug smuggling and human trafficking.
- **Smart Border Management:** Use AI and data analytics for efficient and secure border management.
- **Digital Connectivity Corridor:** Develop high-speed internet and digital services to boost trade and technological exchange.

India -Nepal

1. New Development : Power Export Agreement
Objective: Export 10,000 MW of power from Nepal to India over the next 10 years.
2. Cross-Border Transmission Lines Inauguration

New Lines:

- 132 kV Raxaul-Parwanipur
- 132 kV Kushaha-Kataiya
- New Nautanwa-Mainahiya
- 3. Renewable Energy Cooperation

MoU: Signed between Nepal Electricity Authority and India's National Thermal Power Corporation Limited.

Focus: Collaboration on renewable energy projects.

1. Satellite Service Agreement
2. **Munal Satellite:** Developed by Nepal Academy of Science and Technology.
3. **Launch:** To be launched gratis on an Indian rocket.

MAJOR AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND NEPAL**Economic Cooperation**

- **Trade:** India is Nepal's largest trade partner and investor. India accounts for about two-thirds of Nepal's merchandise trade.
- **Agreements:** Reviewing the Treaty of Transit and Treaty of Trade, amending agreements, enhancing investment, and developing trade infrastructure.

Defense Cooperation

- **Modernization:** India aids in modernizing the Nepal Army with equipment and training.
- **Joint Exercises:** 'Surya Kiran' military exercise held in both countries; 2023 held in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.

Cultural Cooperation

- **Cultural Festival:** India-Nepal Cultural Festival in Lumbini in December 2023, highlighting Buddhism and shared heritage.

Water Sharing

- **Agreements:**
 - ❖ Koshi Agreement (1954, revised 1966)
 - ❖ Gandak Agreement (1959, revised 1964)
 - ❖ Mahakali Treaty (1996) for fair utilization of the Mahakali river.

Connectivity

- **Infrastructure:**
 - ❖ Upgrading 10 roads in Terai.
 - ❖ Cross-border rail links at Jogbani-Biratnagar and Jaynagar-Bardibas.
 - ❖ Integrated Check Posts in Birgunj, Biratnagar, Bhairahawa, and Nepalgunj.
- **Electricity Exports:** About 2200 MUs of electricity exported to Nepal in 2021.

MAJOR CHALLENGES TO INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONS

Boundary Dispute

- **Tensions:** Kalapani-Limpiyadhura-Lipulekh trijunction and Susta area disputes.

China's Rising Footprint

- **Influence:** China's financial and technical assistance in various sectors.
- **Concerns:** Potential shift in Nepal's position as a buffer state; Gorkhas possibly joining China's PLA due to India's Agniveer scheme.

Way Forward

1. **Address Immediate Concerns in Agniveer Scheme:** Address issues to build trust and goodwill.
2. **Develop Joint Projects in Border Regions:** Initiate projects benefiting border areas to foster shared development.
3. **Permanent Mechanism for Diplomatic Dialogue on Boundary Dispute:** Engage in open, sustained discussions to resolve disputes.
4. **Track-II Diplomacy** to involve non-governmental entities, academics, and civil society to enhance cooperation.

REGIONAL -SOUTH ASIA

Role of India in Development of South Asia

India's vision of regional economic integration in South Asia is based on enhanced intra-regional trade, investment flows and regional transport and communication links in South Asia.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and India's Neighbourhood First Policy are the two vehicles in this process.

India's Neighbourhood First Policy

Under its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, India is committed to developing friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all its neighbours.

1. Focuses on creating **mutually beneficial**, people-oriented, regional frameworks
2. India's engagement is based **non-reciprocal** and outcome-oriented approach,
3. India is an **active development partner**

Purpose

1. **Improve Relations with Neighbors**
 - ❖ Prioritize enhancing relationships with immediate neighboring countries.
2. **Regional Diplomacy**
 - Focus on vigorous regional diplomacy and building political connectivity through dialogue.
3. **MoUs and Agreements**
 - ❖ Establish agreements to ensure free flow of resources, energy, goods, labor, and information across borders.
4. **Trade Ties and SAARC Investment**
 - ❖ Enhance trade relations with neighbors and invest in SAARC for regional development.
 - ❖ Example: BBIN grouping for energy development, motor vehicles, water power management, and inter-grid connectivity.

5. Security and Military Cooperation

- ❖ Deepen regional security through military cooperation and participation in defense exercises.

6. Disaster Response and Management

- ❖ Focus on disaster response, resource management, weather forecasting, and communication.
- ❖ Build capabilities and expertise in disaster management for South Asian citizens.

Challenges Regarding Regional Cooperation in South Asia**1. Low Intra-Regional Trade**

- ❖ Intra-regional trade is only 5% of the region's total trade, the lowest globally.

2. Balancing Influence

- ❖ Nations seek to balance India's influence by forming closer ties with external powers like the USA and China.

3. Chinese Influence

- ❖ Recent Chinese actions, such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and String of Pearls, impact regional dynamics.

4. Territorial Disputes

- ❖ Ongoing territorial disputes challenge peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

5. Integration into Global Value Chains

- ❖ The region is less integrated into global value chains compared to East Asia.

Way Forward**1. Governance and Sustainable Development**

- ❖ Recognize the linkage between effective governance and sustainable development.
- ❖ Strengthen efforts in protecting biodiversity and responding to climate crises.

2. Strengthen SAFTA

- ❖ Enhance the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) to drive regional economic integration.

3. Regional Food Security

- ❖ Integrate roles in regional food security as a facilitator and component of the economic bloc.

4. Sub-Regional Initiatives

- ❖ Utilize sub-regional platforms like BIMSTEC to increase engagement and cooperation.

To promote the interests of South Asian nations as a group, India can be the voice of South Asia in international forums. A secure regional environment will also help India reach its ambitious development goals.

REGION- INDO-PACIFIC**India and Indo-Pacific**

The term Indo-Pacific express Indian Ocean and the Pacific are a linked strategic theater.

The shift from Asia-Pacific to 'Indo-Pacific' shows the salience of India in the new construct.

The term 'Indo-Pacific' is interpreted differently by different stakeholders .

1. India considers the region as an inclusive, open, integrated and balanced space.
2. The U.S. trying to contain the role of China in the region.
3. The ASEAN countries look at Indo-Pacific as a consociational model, thus bringing in China not only for the sake of giving it some stakeholderhood but looking for ways to cooperate with it in the region.

Strategic significance of Indo-Pacific region for India:

1. **Strategic significance:** Indo-Pacific is a multipolar region, contributing more than half of the world's GDP and population.
2. **Mineral Resources:** Vital resources ranging from fish stocks to minerals and offshore oil and gas.
3. **Economic Growth:** Asian Development Bank (ADB) report noted that countries in the Indo-Pacific produce over 60% of global GDP, making the region the largest single contributor to global growth.
4. **Commerce:** World's vital choke points for global commerce in this region, including the Straits of Malacca which is very critical for the growth of world economy.
5. **Maritime Trade:** Pacific islands are strategically significant from New Delhi's point of view as they sit astride important sea lines of communication through which important maritime trade is conducted.

Chinese threat and increasing presence:

1. The Chinese regime claims that it has historical ownership over nearly the entire region (**nine dash line**) of the South China Sea. The International Court of Arbitration rejected the claim in 2016.
2. China considers disputes in the South China Sea as territorial disputes and therefore considers that UNCLOS does not have a locus standi to pass the judgement over disputes.
3. China's increasingly active presence in the Indian Ocean region as well as its efforts to expand geopolitical reach in Asia and beyond (**String of Pearls**)

Way forward

1. It is important to adhere to freedom of navigation, adherence to rules-based order and stable trade environment. Also for free sea and air lanes, connectivity and upholding international rules and norms.
2. India should focus on the link between Indo-China border area and the East China Sea. It is important for India to cooperate with Japan and the US to deal with Chinese front.
3. Furthermore, developing infrastructure in other countries of the region is useful, too. E.g. Bangladesh has already chosen Japan's Martabali port project instead of China's Sonadia port project.
4. The Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), a result of Indo-Japanese cooperation, will also counter China's growing influence in Africa.

REGION- SOUTH EAST ASIA

Look East Policy

Post 1991 India sought to build up a relationship with the USA and allies of the USA in Southeast Asia.

In this pursuit, Look East policy was launched in 1992

1. to give a strategic push to India's engagement with the South-East Asia region
2. to bolster its standing as a regional power
3. counterweight to the strategic influence of the People's Republic of China.

Important Features:

1. Look East policy focused on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries + **Economic Integration**.
2. India became a dialogue partner of ASEAN in 1996 and summit level partner in 2002. In 2012 the relationship got up-graded into a Strategic Partnership.
3. India's trade with ASEAN was USD 2 billion in 1992. After signing the Free Trade Agreement in 2010 with ASEAN, the trade has grown to USD 72 billion.

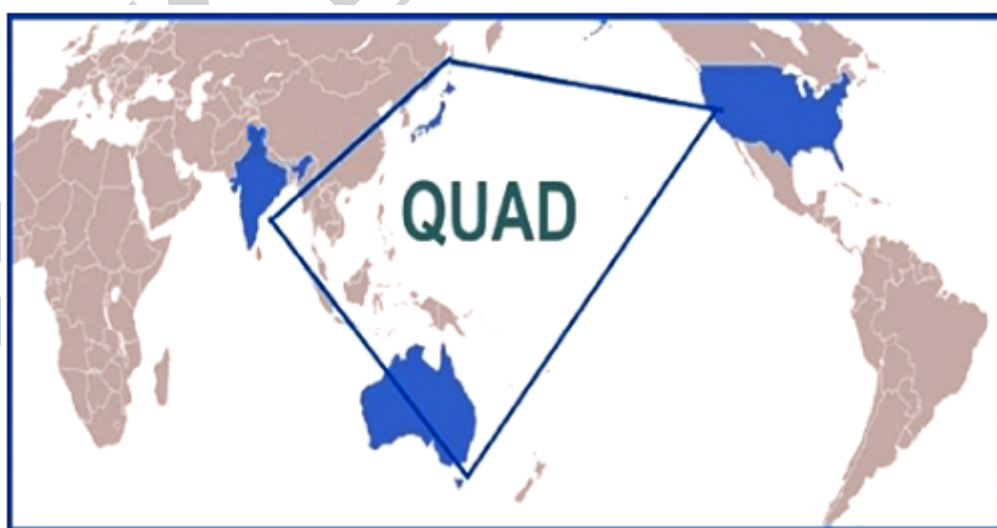
The Act East Policy was launched in November 2014 as the successor of the Look East Policy. Act East aims at the **extended neighborhood in Asia-Pacific** and also **involves security cooperation**.

1. Act East Policy focused on ASEAN countries + Economic Integration + East Asian countries + Security cooperation.
2. Prime minister of India highlighted 4C's of Act East Policy
 - ❖ Culture
 - ❖ Commerce
 - ❖ Connectivity
 - ❖ Capacity building
3. Security is an important dimension of India's Act East Policy. In the context of growing Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean, securing freedom of navigation and India's own role in the Indian Ocean is a key feature of Act East Policy.
4. In pursuance of this, India has been engaged under the narrative of Indo-Pacific and informal grouping called [Quad](#).

QUAD

It is the grouping of four **democracies –India, Australia, the US, and Japan**. All four nations find a common ground of being democratic nations and also support the common interest of unhindered maritime trade and security.

1. It aims to ensure and support a **“free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region**.
2. The idea of Quad was first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007. However, the idea couldn't move ahead with Australia pulling out of it, apparently due to Chinese pressure.
3. Finally in 2017, India, Australia, the US and Japan, came together and formed this “quadrilateral” coalition.



Significance of the Grouping**1. Countering China**

- ❖ Potential to disrupt Chinese trade and influence if cooperation with Quad countries addresses any Chinese aggression on borders.

2. Net Security Provider

- ❖ India can leverage its central position in the Indo-Pacific to promote a vision of a 'broader Asia,' extending influence beyond traditional geographical boundaries.

3. Regional Security

- ❖ Collaboration with Quad countries can counter China's imperialist policies in the Indian Ocean region and promote regional security and growth.

Challenges**1. Undefined Vision**

- ❖ The Quad lacks a clearly defined strategic mission, which can limit its effectiveness and potential for cooperation.

2. Maritime Focus

- ❖ The Quad's emphasis on the Indo-Pacific may make it overly maritime-focused, potentially neglecting the Asia-Pacific and Eurasian regions.

3. India's Alliance Aversion

- ❖ India's reluctance to join treaty alliance systems has slowed progress in strengthening Quadrilateral engagement.

Way Forward

The Quad nations need to **better explain the Indo-Pacific Vision in an overarching framework** with the objective of advancing everyone's economic and security interests.

India has many other partners in the Indo-Pacific; therefore, **India should pitch for countries like Indonesia, Singapore** to be invited to join in the future.

INDIA - ASEAN**Areas of Cooperation**

1. **ASEAN-India has Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**, ensuring substantial benefits for both sides.
2. ASEAN is India's **4th largest trading partner**
3. The bilateral trade between India and ASEAN in **2022-23 amounted to USD 131.5 billion**, constituting 11.3% of India's global trade for the same period.
4. India has been undertaking several connectivity projects like **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral (IMT) Highway** and the **Kaladan Multimodal Project**.
5. Key areas for cooperation identified are **robust Supply Chains, Food Security**, energy security, health, and financial stability.
6. Recent, 20th **ASEAN-India Economic Ministers' meeting include** thorough review of the **ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)**, originally signed in 2009.
7. The initiation of the **AITIGA review addresses** a longstanding demand from Indian businesses and promises to make the **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** more conducive to trade and mutually beneficial.

Challenges

1. For a long time, the **assumption of China as the primary economic partner** and the **US as the primary security guarantor**
2. China is trying to increase its presence in the area through its one belt one road initiative which is opposed by India.
3. **ASEAN member states** are enmeshed in **territorial disputes** with interested powers for a long time
4. Many bilateral deals with these nations are **yet to be finalised**, leading to the halting of various aspects of economic ties.

Way forward

India's geostrategic interests in the Indo-Pacific region depend on India's bilateral and multilateral engagements with the countries in the region.

ASEAN countries, particularly Myanmar, Vietnam and Malaysia can potentially contribute to India's energy security. Also oil and natural gas deposits in the South China Sea region should be explored through regional cooperation. Similarly, India with huge demographic dividend can provide a human resource base to ASEAN who is going to experience a burden of lower share of working age population and a higher median age of workers.

MIDDLE EAST

After recognizing the significance of Middle East in India's Foreign Policy, it started increasing its ties with Gulf.

First, The landmark shift towards this was seen with the formation of a four-nation grouping — unveiled in October 2021 — called I2U2 that brought the US, India, Israel, and the UAE together.

Second, On the sidelines of the [G20 Summit](#) in New Delhi, an MoU was signed between **India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, the UAE, France, Germany, and Italy** to establish the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEE-EC).



Thirdly, We have close to 9 million Indian people majority working in blue color jobs.

Indian diaspora in Middle East (8.4 million)

Saudi Arabia 41lakhs

United Arab Emirates 34lakhs

Kuwait 10lakhs

Oman 7.8lakhs

Qatar 7.5lakhs

Areas of Cooperation**1. Energy Supply**

- ❖ Gulf Arab states supply 50% of India's crude oil and 85% of its natural gas.

2. Strategic Partnerships

- ❖ Israel is viewed as a “model of counter-terrorism” and a strategic defense partner.
- ❖ India has strengthened strategic cooperation with Saudi Arabia and UAE.

3. Connectivity Projects

- ❖ Projects like INSTC and Chabahar Port enhance connectivity to West Asia and Eurasia.

4. Persian Gulf Stability

- ❖ Focus on ensuring stability and security in the Persian Gulf region, including protecting the Indian expatriate community.

5. Indian Diaspora

- ❖ Over 8 million Indian diaspora live in the Gulf, constituting one-fourth of the total Indian diaspora.
- ❖ Gulf remittances to India amount to USD 38 billion.

6. Investment

- ❖ Saudi Arabia and UAE have invested over USD 100 billion in India.

Challenges**1. Conflicting Interests**

- ❖ Rivalries exist between Middle Eastern countries (e.g., Israel-Palestine, Saudi Arabia-Iran).

2. Counter-Terrorism

- ❖ Challenges in countering terrorism and ensuring security for Indian nationals in conflict-prone areas like Iraq and Yemen.

3. Global Powers

- ❖ The Middle East is a focal point for global and regional powers (e.g., US, Russia, China, Iran).

4. Oil and Gas Supply

- ❖ Geopolitical tensions could disrupt the stable and affordable supply of oil and gas, impacting India's energy security.

5. Crisis Management

- ❖ The region's susceptibility to crises and conflicts requires robust crisis management strategies and diversified economic partnerships.

In navigating these challenges, India must maintain a pragmatic and flexible foreign policy that serves its national interests while respecting the sovereignty and sensitivities of Middle Eastern nations.

I2U2 GROUPING**INDIA-ISRAEL-UAE-USA**

1. I2U2 also referred to as the ‘West Asian Quad’.
2. I2U2 was initially formed in October, 2021 following the [Abraham Accords](#), to deal with issues concerning maritime security, infrastructure and transport.
3. The Abraham Accord is the first Arab-Israeli peace deal in 26 years mediated by the USA.
4. India shifted its policy by rejecting the notion that India can't be visibly friendly to Israel and maintained a fine balance of ties with both Israel and Arab.

Objectives of I2U2

- 1. Economic Partnership**
 - ❖ Aim to discuss and strengthen economic partnership in trade and investment in respective regions and beyond.
- 2. Areas of Cooperation**
 - ❖ Focus on six key areas: water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.
 - ❖ Encourage joint investments in these sectors.
- 3. Investment by UAE**
 - ❖ UAE to invest USD 2 billion in developing Food Parks across India.
- 4. Renewable Energy Project**
 - ❖ Support for a hybrid renewable energy project in Gujarat with 300 MW of wind and solar capacity.
- 5. Expertise and Innovation**
- 6. Involvement of US and Israeli private sectors for expertise and innovative solutions to ensure sustainability.**

Significance of I2U2

- 1. Security Cooperation**
 - ❖ Exploring security cooperation within the grouping framework.
- 2. Technological Hub**
 - ❖ Development of hubs for Biotechnology, Startups, and Clean Energy.
- 3. Food Security**
 - ❖ Joint efforts to address and improve food security and safety.
- 4. Trade and Commerce**
 - ❖ Potential to revitalize trade; UAE is the second-largest export destination for India after the US.
- 5. Connectivity**
 - ❖ Enhanced connectivity through the Arabian Gulf to Israel, Jordan, and the EU.
 - ❖ Potential reduction in container shipping costs (e.g., Mumbai to Greece by over 40%).

Challenges

- 1. Israel-Palestine Conflict**
 - ❖ Despite Abraham Accords, the Israel-Palestine conflict remains a significant concern at the grassroots level.
- 2. Internal Arab Conflicts**
 - ❖ Shia-Sunni tensions (e.g., Iran vs. Saudi Arabia) impacting Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen.
- 3. Geopolitical Divisions**
 - ❖ Potential formation of opposing groups: one with China, Pakistan, Russia, Iran, and Turkey; the other with India, Israel, USA, and UAE.
- 4. China's Presence**
 - ❖ India must contend with China's expanding influence in the region.

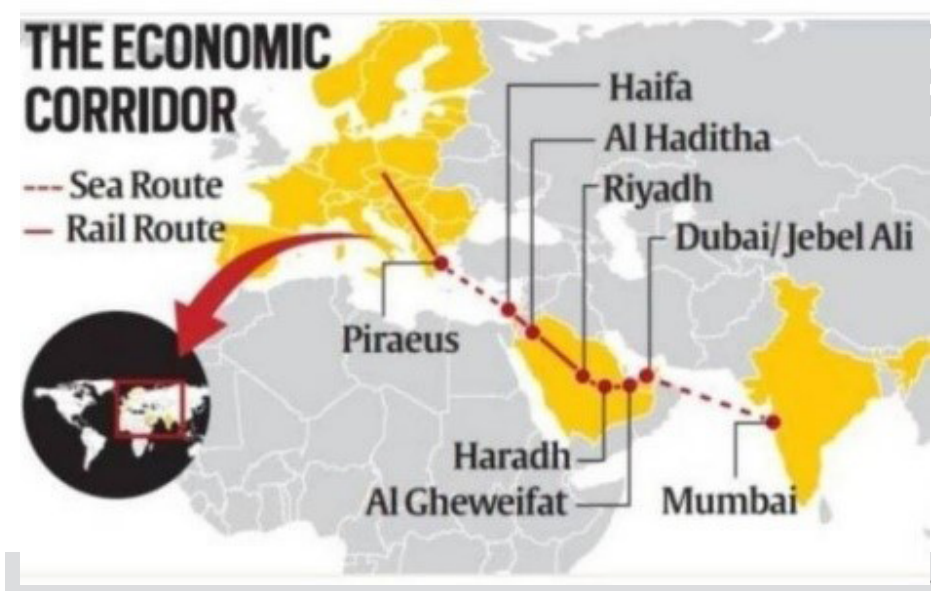
Wayforward

The I2U2 is a win-win proposition for all the countries concerned. India needs to play a more active role as far as cooperation with West Asia is concerned.

INDIA-MIDDLE EAST-EUROPE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (IMEE-EC)

On the sidelines of the [G20 Summit](#) in New Delhi, an MoU was signed between **India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, the UAE, France, Germany, and Italy** to establish the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEE-EC).

1. It is an infrastructure development project that aims **to create connectivity through rail and shipping networks, energy cables, and data links.**
2. **Objectives:** IMEC seeks to boost trade, clean energy, and economic growth while providing an alternative to [China's Belt and Road Initiative](#) (BRI)
3. It is part of the Partnership for Rail and Shipping Corridors Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII) and focuses on enhancing global trade and cooperation through critical infrastructure development



- Eastern Corridor connecting India to the Arabian Gulf,
- Northern Corridor connecting Arabian Gulf to Europe

Corridor includes

1. **Reliable cross-border ship-to-rail transit network** connecting India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, and Europe.
2. **Electricity cable and a clean hydrogen pipeline** to foster clean energy trade.
3. **High-speed data cable** to link innovative digital ecosystems in the world and create business opportunities
4. Enhancing food security, **regional supply chains**, trade accessibility, environmental considerations, economic cohesion, job creation, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Benefits for India

1. **Railway lines** (make trade between India and Europe 40% faster).
2. It offers **India a crucial role in global commerce**, digital communication, and energy networks vis-à-vis China's BRI
3. **Geographical Advantage:** It firmly positions India along the trade route spanning South East Asia to the Gulf,

West Asia, and Europe.

Israel Palestine Issue

Present Conflict: Hamas Attack (2023)

- **Genesis:** Hamas militants attacked Israeli forces and civilians, capturing many, leading to an emergency in Israel.
- **Motives:** Hamas cited retaliation for Israeli military actions in the West Bank and incidents at al-Aqsa Mosque.
- **Losses:** Over 5,000 missiles fired from Gaza; casualties on both sides.
- **Operation Iron Swords:** IDF response with strikes on Hamas targets; plans for ground incursions and international oversight of Gaza.
- **Possible Outcomes:**
 - ❖ **Regional Repercussions:** Risk of broader war with Hezbollah, strained relations with Arab neighbors, potential reinforcements for Gaza.
 - ❖ **Hostage Issue:** Complicates potential invasion; uncertain fate of hostages.
 - ❖ **Post-Invasion Implications:** Uncertainty of lasting political solutions; historical challenges for Israel in Gaza.

India's Stand on Israel-Palestine Conflict

- **Background:** India historically supported Palestine due to Gandhiji's disapproval of a Jewish state, significant Muslim demographic, and ties with Arab nations.
- **UN Voting Patterns:** Voted against Palestine's partition and Israel's UN admission.
- **Policy Shift:**
 - ❖ **Post-Cold War:** Established diplomatic ties with Israel in 1992; continued support for Palestine.
 - ❖ **Current Policy:**
 - ❖ **Strengthening Ties with Israel:** Enhanced relations in trade, defense, and counter-terrorism.
 - ❖ **Support for Palestine:** Financial and humanitarian aid; opposed unilateral US and Israeli moves on Jerusalem.
 - ❖ **De-hyphenation Diplomacy:** Separate visits to Israel and Palestine; balanced stance.
- **Unwavering Position:** Advocates a two-state solution; supports peaceful coexistence.
- **Implications for India:**
 - ❖ **Defence Ties:** Potential delays in military supplies from Israel.
 - ❖ **Energy Security:** Regional instability could impact energy prices.
 - ❖ **IMEC Impact:** Security concerns may affect the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor.

Challenges to Peace

- **Ancient Disputes:** Deep-rooted religious and territorial conflicts.
- **Capital Controversy:** Both sides claim Jerusalem as their capital.
- **West Bank Settlements:** Viewed as obstacles to peace by Palestinians.
- **Border Conflicts:** Disputes over boundaries from the 1967 war.
- **Refugee Return:** Palestinians seek right of return to original homes.
- **Safety Issues:** Mutual suspicions and violence.
- **Political Fragmentation:** Divisions within both Israeli and Palestinian groups.
- **Foreign Interference:** External agendas exacerbate tensions.
- **Financial Inequalities:** Economic disparities heighten conflicts.

Possible Solutions

- **Two-State Solution:** Sovereign Palestinian state next to Israel.
- **One-State Solution:** Single nation with equal rights for both Jews and Palestinians.
- **Alliance Model:** Collaborative governance with free transit.
- **Border Realignments:** Adjust boundaries based on current realities.
- **Joint Capital:** Shared or internationally governed Jerusalem.
- **Refugee Repatriation:** Addressing return rights or alternative solutions.
- **Disarmament:** Weapon-free Palestinian state.
- **Financial Infusion:** Global aid to boost Palestinian economy.
- **International Collaboration:** Engage Arab nations for regional harmony.
- **Community Diplomacy:** Localized unity efforts between residents.
-

India-Central Asia


India formulated its **Connect Central Asia Policy in 2012**, which is a broad-based approach including political, security, economic, and cultural connections.

The Connect Central Asia Policy is based on - 4Cs:

1. Commerce,
2. Connectivity,
3. Consular and
4. Community.

Significance of Central Asia for India

1. **Strategic Position**
 - ❖ Central Asia serves as a key access point between Europe and Asia.
2. **Economic Potential**
 - ❖ Offers opportunities for trade, investment, and growth.

- ❖ Beneficial sectors include IT, pharmaceuticals, and tourism.

3. Mineral Resources

- ❖ Rich in crude oil, natural gas, cotton, gold, copper, aluminium, and iron.

4. Energy Security

- ❖ Important sources of uranium, oil, and gas.

5. Indian Projects in the Region

- ❖ **TAPI Pipeline:** Trans-Afghan pipeline project.
- ❖ **Farkhor Airbase:** India's only overseas airbase in Tajikistan.
- ❖ **Chabahar Port:** Strategic port in Iran.
- ❖ **INSTC (International North-South Transport Corridor):** Multi-modal transport project.

6. Regional Instability

- ❖ Instability due to terrorism and illegal arms trade in the Golden Crescent region can affect India.
- ❖ Crucial for maintaining stability in Afghanistan.

7. UNSC Bid

- ❖ Central Asian countries are important for India's bid for a permanent UNSC seat.

8. Multilateral Engagement

- ❖ Re-energized links through participation in the Eurasian Economic Union, Heart of Asia Conference, and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Challenges for India

1. Connectivity Issues

- ❖ No direct borders with Central Asia; connectivity is a major concern.

2. Regional Instability

- ❖ Pakistan and Afghanistan are unstable; impacts trade routes and security.

3. Chinese Influence

- ❖ China's Belt and Road Initiative has significant investments in Central Asia.

4. Political Fragility

- ❖ Central Asian countries face terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism, creating instability.

5. Drug Trafficking

- ❖ Porous borders, corruption, and proximity to opium production areas (Golden Crescent, Golden Triangle) contribute to drug and money trafficking.

Way Forward

1. Leverage Regional Connections

- ❖ Utilize political, economic, and cultural ties to enhance India's role in Eurasia.

2. Implement Multilateral Agreements

- ❖ Focus on agreements like the Ashgabat Agreement, INSTC, and Chabahar Port to address geographical and implementation challenges.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

1. India has chaired 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) virtual Summit, leaders called for the formation of a “more representative” and multipolar world order in the global interest.
2. The theme of India’s chairpersonship of SCO is ‘Towards a SECURE SCO’, which is derived from the acronym coined by the Indian PM at the 2018 SCO Qingdao Summit.
3. It stands for: S: Security, E: Economic development, C: Connectivity, U: Unity, R: Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, E: Environmental protection.
4. Recent 24th SCO Summit, to be held on 04 July 2024 in Astana under Kazakhstan’s presidency, reviewed two decades of the organization’s activities and discuss regional and international issues, with India’s External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar leading the delegation, and India’s priorities focused on a ‘SECURE’

Areas of Cooperation

1. **Economic Cooperation**
 - ❖ SCO offers a platform for India to enhance economic ties with Central Asian countries, which hold significant natural resource reserves.
2. **Energy Security**
 - ❖ Central Asia’s vast oil and gas reserves are crucial for India to bolster its energy security.
3. **Connectivity and Security**
 - ❖ The Samarkand Declaration from the 22nd Summit prioritizes connectivity, energy, and food security, aligning with India’s strategic interests.
4. **Cultural and Tourism Initiatives**
 - ❖ SCO’s rotating initiative designates one city each year as the tourism and cultural capital.
 - ❖ “Kashi” (Varanasi) has been named the first cultural capital under this initiative.
5. **Counterterrorism Cooperation**
 - ❖ SCO emphasizes counterterrorism through the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS).
 - ❖ RATS facilitates intelligence sharing, joint exercises, and operations to address terrorism, separatism, and extremism.
6. **RATS Platform**
 - ❖ Provides a framework for member states to collaborate on preventing and combating terrorism through shared intelligence and coordinated actions.
7. **New Pillars of Cooperation: India has created five new pillars and focus area for cooperation in the SCO, which include,**
 - ❖ Startups and Innovation
 - ❖ Traditional Medicine
 - ❖ Youth Empowerment
 - ❖ Digital Inclusion
 - ❖ Shared Buddhist Heritage

Challenges of SCO

1. SCO lacks a formal mechanism for resolving disputes between member states.
2. Divergent Interests and Disagreements of member states
3. Limited geographical scope limited to Eurasia and neighboring regions
4. Western skepticism and criticism for its lack of democratic credentials

5. **Conflicts Exist within SCO Countries:** India and China over Border Issues, India and Pakistan over Terrorism, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan over Border Issues, several conflicts between Taliban-led Afghanistan and Pakistan

How India Can Play an Effective Role in SCO

1. **Leverage the Asian Century:** SCO can enhance India's trade relations with East Asia, a region expected to drive global economic growth. India should Strengthen trade and economic ties within the SCO framework.
2. **Promote National Currencies in Trade:** Reduce dependence on the US Dollar and Advocate for bilateral trade settlements in national currencies to mitigate price volatility
3. **Maintain SCO's Strategic Importance:** SCO is often referred to as the "Asian NATO," though it does not mandate security alliances. India should Continue valuing and participating in SCO's regional cooperation without imposing security constraints.
4. **Enhance Counter-Terrorism Cooperation:** Strengthen collaborative efforts against terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking, and organized crime.
5. **Boost Tourism Through Cultural Awareness:** Increase awareness of shared cultures to promote tourism.

G 20 Grouping and India's Presidency

The G20 is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union, with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The G20 Presidency rotates annually according to a system that ensures a regional balance over time.

The G20 does not have a permanent secretariat or Headquarters.

India's Agenda: Benefits Highlighted from G20 Presidency

1. **Global Vision**
 - ❖ **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam:** India's vision of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" aims to unite global citizens and improve the world collectively.
2. **Sustainable Lifestyles**
 - ❖ **LiFE Approach:** Advocates for coherent actions across society, emphasizing the role of local communities, governments, and traditional knowledge in supporting sustainable development.
3. **Demonstrating Convening Power**
 - ❖ The G20 Summit highlighted India's ability to bring global leaders together and showcase its rising prominence on the world stage.
4. **Global South Representation**
 - ❖ Positioned as the "voice of the Global South," India aims to prioritize developing and less-developed countries' issues on the global agenda.
5. **Diplomatic Initiatives**
 - ❖ Seeks to bridge gaps between Russian and Western leaders, potentially ending the European conflict and achieving a diplomatic success.
6. **African Union Membership**
 - ❖ Advocates for the African Union (AU) to become a G20 member, expanding representation within the world's richest nations.
7. **Consensus Building**
 - ❖ Demonstrates India's capability to generate consensus on key issues at a forum originally focused on financial crises.

8. Addressing Global Issues

- ❖ Focus on significant global issues including climate change, gender equality, SDGs, financial inclusion, terrorism, and money laundering.

Outcomes of the G20 Meet

1. Key Global Issues Addressed

- ❖ Discussed and reached agreements on climate change, gender equality, SDGs, financial inclusion, terrorism, and money laundering.

2. Ukraine War Statement

- ❖ G20 countries issued a statement with a detailed section addressing the Ukraine conflict.

3. Showcasing Indian Diversity

- ❖ The summit and numerous meetings highlighted India's diversity, culture, and hospitality on the world stage.

4. India as a Key Diplomatic Destination

- ❖ New Delhi's summit solidified India's role as a critical forum for dialogue and debate, offering a significant alternative to China.

5. Economic Corridor Announcement

- ❖ Launched a new economic corridor connecting Europe, the Middle East, and India via rail and sea, challenging China's Belt and Road Initiative.

6. Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA)

- ❖ Initiated the GBA to promote global adoption of biofuels through technology advancements and robust standard setting.

India's Leadership Role

1. Voice of the Global South

- ❖ India has emerged as a proponent of an alternative vision for global governance and development.

2. Indian Stack: Open APIs and Digital Public Goods

- ❖ India's open-source software initiatives aim to unlock economic potentials related to identity, data, and payments on a global scale.

3. Financial Inclusion

- ❖ The JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) Trinity has significantly increased financial inclusion from 25% in 2008 to over 80% of adults.

4. African Union's Inclusion

- ❖ India's push for the AU's inclusion in the G21 reflects its commitment to an inclusive vision, blending emotional and pragmatic considerations.

The Prime Minister announced India's emergence on the global stage during this Amrit Kaal up to 2047, making science and economy deliver for humanity at large under the philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' – One Earth, One Family, One Future.

G21 / African Union (AU) become a member of the G20

African Union is Based in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, the AU has 55 member countries, totaling three trillion dollars in GDP. Only one African country, South Africa, is currently a member of the G20,

Significance of AU's Inclusion in G20

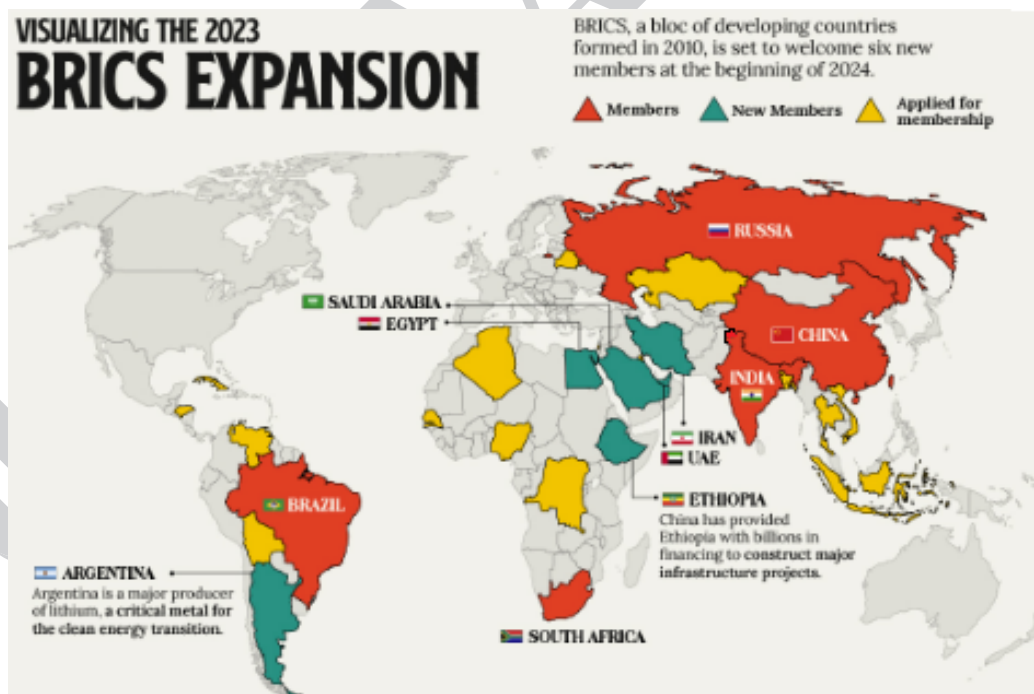
1. The AU's membership in the G20 offers an opportunity to reshape global trade, finance, and investment structures. It provides African interests and perspectives with a voice and visibility in the G20, potentially influencing global policy decisions.
2. Social Infrastructure: India-Africa cooperation involves education, health, and skills enhancement at various levels. India-Africa Partnership (Achievements, Challenges and Roadmap 2030)

Indian-African Relations

1. **Common Geo-Political Interests:** India and Africa share interests in UN reforms, counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, and cybersecurity.
2. **Economic Cooperation:** Trade amounted to USD 63.3 billion in 2018-19, contributing to economic ties.
3. **Asia-Africa Growth Corridor** – an economic cooperation agreement between India, Japan and multiple African countries.
4. **Addressing Food Security:** India and Africa can cooperate to ensure food and nutritional security, leveraging India's agricultural expertise.
5. **Scope:**
 - ❖ **Combating Neo-Colonialism:** Differentiating from neo-colonial approaches, India focuses on building local capacities and equal partnerships.
 - ❖ **Preventing Global Rivalries:** As global players engage with Africa, India and Africa can prevent rival ambitions and maintain cooperation.

BRICS 2.0 / BRICS-X

BRICS foreign ministers held their first meeting since the BRICS was expanded to add **Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia in 2023**. (Argentina didn't joined.)



BRICS 2.0 will have global repercussions:

1. GDP Share : 29%
2. Population Share: 46%
3. Oil Production: 43%

4. Exports of Goods: 25%
5. On the role of the US-led Western alliance centered around G7
6. Emerging economies and developing countries
7. Engagements between the two worlds ie Global North and Global South.

Significance of Increase in BRICS Membership

1. **Broader Global Representation**
 - ❖ **Population and Economic Influence:** The expanded membership represents a larger share of the world's population, global GDP, and international trade.
2. **Regional Representation**
 - ❖ **Latin America:** Argentina's inclusion enhances Latin American representation.
 - ❖ **Africa:** Egypt and Ethiopia's addition boosts African representation.
3. **Development Bank Recapitalization**
 - ❖ **Saudi Arabia and UAE:** Their membership will aid in recapitalizing the New Development Bank, increasing its capacity to fund development projects.
4. **Strategic Location**
 - ❖ **Iran:** Iran's entry highlights its strategic position as a bridge between West, Central, and South Asia.
5. **Oil Production**
 - ❖ **Top Oil Producers:** BRICS 2.0 will include six of the top 10 oil-producing countries: Saudi Arabia, Russia, China, UAE, Brazil, and Iran.
6. **Consensus-Based Expansion**
 - ❖ **Initial Drivers:** Originally driven by China, Russia, and South Africa, the expansion now reflects a consensus among India, Brazil, and the original members.
7. **Global South Interest**
 - ❖ **Interest in Membership:** At least 23 countries from the Global South expressed interest in joining BRICS, indicating the grouping's significant global value despite Western skepticism.
8. **Global Power Shift**
 - ❖ **Recognition and Influence:** The expansion signifies a shift in global power dynamics, reflecting growing influence outside traditional Western frameworks.

The new BRICS-X will have more political clout, but the extent of its increased influence will depend on building inner unity.

Outcomes of the 15th BRICS Summit

1. **Reaffirming Multilateralism and Reform: Collective Statement** to Emphasis on multilateralism, international law, and sustainable development. To Support for restructuring to enhance inclusivity and address developing nations' needs.
2. **Expanding Membership and Influence**
 - ❖ **Friends of BRICS:** Invitations extended to 15 countries from Africa and the Global South.
 - ❖ **First Phase of Expansion:** Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and UAE invited to join BRICS.
 - ❖ **Interest:** Over 40 nations have expressed interest in BRICS membership.
3. **Common Currency:** Exploration of a shared currency for trade and investment to Reduce reliance on the US dollar and evaluate the benefits.

4. Space Cooperation

- ❖ **Proposal:** Formation of a BRICS space exploration consortium.
- ❖ **Significance:** India's recent lunar achievement and South Africa's participation in a China-led space program.

5. Addressing Regional and Global Concerns

- ❖ **Topics:** Covid-19, climate change, terrorism, cyber security, energy security, trade, and investment.
- ❖ **Commitments:** Strengthened collaboration in health, research, and innovation.

Regional Developments Influencing BRICS Expansion

1. Independent Foreign Policy

- ❖ **Saudi Arabia and UAE:** Pursuit of independent foreign policies since 2020, reflecting sovereignty and national interests.

2. Resolution of Qatar Blockade

- ❖ **Saudi Arabia:** Lifting the blockade on Qatar in January 2021, signaling regional dispute resolution.

3. Normalization of Iran-UAE Relations

- ❖ **UAE:** Efforts to normalize ties with Iran and expand maritime presence.

4. BRICS and Iran

- ❖ **Opportunities:** Regional economic cooperation and connectivity projects, including Chabahar port involvement.

5. Other Reasons for Expansion

- **China's Influence:** Strategic maneuvering and collaboration with aligned nations.
- ❖ **Global South Solidarity:** Shared interests and opposition to Western dominance.

Geostrategic Significance of Newly Added Members

1. Energy Resources

- ❖ **Saudi Arabia and Iran:** Substantial energy reserves, with Saudi oil directed to BRICS nations and Iran increasing oil exports to China.

2. Diversification of Energy Suppliers

- ❖ **Russia:** Exploration of new markets, diversifying energy sources within BRICS.

3. Strategic Geographical Presence

- ❖ **Egypt and Ethiopia:** Influence over maritime trade routes in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea region.

4. Latin American Economic Influence

- ❖ **Argentina:** Strengthening BRICS' presence in Latin America with its substantial economic influence.

Obstacles India Faces in BRICS

1. Adapting to Shifting Global Alliances

- ❖ **Challenges:** Evolving geopolitical dynamics and their impact on BRICS cohesion.

2. Coordinating on Multilateral Platforms

- ❖ **Alignment:** Diverse priorities among BRICS members for global governance reforms.

3. Addressing China's Rise

- ❖ **Concerns:** Security threats and competition related to China's ascendancy.

4. Upholding Democratic Principles

- ❖ **Navigating Expectations:** Balancing Western norms with BRICS principles and maintaining global South alliances.

5. Balancing BRICS Dynamics

- ❖ **Pragmatic Policy:** Ensuring equitable participation and reducing dominance by any single country.

6. Managing Bilateral Differences

- ❖ **Disputes:** Handling unresolved issues with China and Pakistan, and differing views with Russia.

7. Evaluating Russia's Reliability

- ❖ **Concerns:** Russia's involvement in the Ukraine war and its alignment with China.

8. Addressing Varied Security Concerns

- ❖ **Negotiations:** Aligning diverse security challenges among BRICS members.

9. Addressing Trade Imbalances

- ❖ **Trade Deficit:** Concerns about economic fairness and stability within BRICS.

10. Ensuring Equality

- ❖ **Consensus:** Challenges of maintaining equality and decision-making by consensus with more members.

11. Persistent Challenges

- ❖ **Constraints:** Issues within BRICS, such as economic disparities and internal divisions.

Leveraging the BRICS Platform**1. Embracing Global Governance Philosophy**

- ❖ **Coordination:** Promote a global governance approach with extensive consultation and shared benefits.

2. Advocating Universal Security

- ❖ **Balanced Security:** Ensure universal security and foster dialogue to prevent tensions.

3. Promoting Internal Collaboration

- ❖ **Diversification:** Reduce dominance by any single member and ensure balanced internal dynamics.

4. Ensuring Economic Contributions

- ❖ **Development:** Enhance cooperation in supply chains, energy, and financial resilience.

5. Enhancing Public Health Governance

- ❖ **Health Cooperation:** Utilize BRICS resources to advance global health governance and address public health challenges.

6. Building Consensus

- ❖ **Reforms:** Drive reform in multilateral institutions and address bilateral issues separately for effective cooperation.

Internal challenges within BRICS:

1. The IBSA trio within the BRICS expected that China and Russia would fully back their bid to secure membership of the UN Security Council; they were disappointed. Supporting 'the aspiration' of Brazil, India and South

- Africa to play a greater role in the UN, figures in every BRICS communiqué
2. The Chinese dramatic economic rise and, more importantly, military assertiveness. This disturbed the group's inner balance.
 3. The post-Ukraine consolidation of Russia-China cooperation, economic malaise in South Africa that accelerates dependence on China
 4. Brazil's long fling with rightist policies followed by the return of a tired Lula da Silva as the President, have generated new tensions.
 5. China's push for a common currency for intra-BRICS trade is also symptomatic of the group's inner troubles.

Way Forward

1. The challenge before India is to choose between a China-centric world order or a West-centric world order, or balance the two.
2. It must make sure not to alienate other countries in the global South who may see merit in China's efforts at expanding the membership of those forums.
3. India must keep its eyes firmly fixed on its goal to promote a more representative and equitable global governance ensure that such an order does not end up undercutting its own national interests.

UNITED NATIONS AND INDIA

What is the U.N. Peacekeeping Mission?

- **Objective:** Assists host countries in transitioning from conflict to peace.
- **Establishment:** Initiated during the Cold War due to Security Council paralysis.
- **First Operations:**
 - ❖ **UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO):** Established in 1948 to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbors.
 - ❖ **UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP):** Established in 1949 to oversee the ceasefire between India and Pakistan.
- **Current Deployment:** Over 76,000 peacekeepers are active in 11 conflict zones globally.
- **Guiding Principles:**
 - ❖ Consent of the Parties
 - ❖ Impartiality
 - ❖ **Non-use of Force:** Except in self-defense and defense of the mandate.

India's Contribution to UN Peacekeeping

- **Status:** Second largest contributor of uniformed personnel.
- **Historical Contribution:** approximately **2,75,000 troops** have served in 49 UN Peacekeeping missions since 1948.
- **Current Deployment:** Indian Armed Forces are present in nine countries.
- **Sacrifices:** 179 Indian Army soldiers have died in service of global peace.
- **Training:**
 - ❖ **Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK):** Located in New Delhi, trains over 12,000 troops annually.
- **Gender Parity:**
 - ❖ **Female Peacekeepers:** India has deployed Female Engagement Teams (FETs) in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Abyei.
 - ❖ **Major Radhika Sen:** Awarded "Military Gender Advocate of the Year 2023" by the UN.

- ❖ **All-Women Formed Police Unit:** Deployed to UNMIL in Liberia in 2007, India was the first to send an all-women contingent.
- **Recent Initiatives:**
 - ❖ Memorial Wall for UN Peacekeepers
 - ❖ **Resolution Co-sponsorship:** Supported by 190 out of 193 UN General Assembly member-states.
 - ❖ **Construction Agreement:** Plans to build a Memorial Wall near the North Lawn, adjacent to a small fountain.
- **India-ASEAN Initiative for Women in UNPK Operations:**
 - ❖ **Collaboration:** India and ASEAN working together to support women personnel from ASEAN member-states.
 - ❖ **Specialized Courses:** At CUNPK, targeted training for women peacekeepers from ASEAN countries to enhance their skills and knowledge.
 - ❖ **Table Top Exercise:** Simulates scenarios and challenges faced by UN peacekeepers, aimed at improving preparedness for UNPK operations.

UN Security Council (UNSC)

Recently, the UN General Assembly president has said the UN Security Council (UNSC) has become “paralysed” and “dysfunctional” in its “present form”, as it has not been able to take any decision since the Russia-Ukraine war started.

- The UNSC was established by the UN Charter in 1945.
- It is one of the 6 principal organs of the United Nations.
- UNSC has 15 members: 5 permanent members (P5) and 10 non-permanent members elected for 2-year terms.
- The permanent members were “historically not enthusiastic” about reform of the UN system but they have all agreed that it is necessary for introducing changes in the Security Council.
- India has served eight times in the UNSC as a non-permanent member.

Issues with Regarding to UNSC

1. **Lack of Adequate Representation:** most pertinent absence being that of Africa, a continent of 54 countries. Furthermore, It is a matter of concern that globally important countries such as India, Germany, Brazil, and South Africa are not represented on the UNSC permanent members list.
2. **Misuse of Veto Power:** always criticized by many experts as well as by most States calling it a” self-chosen club of the privileged” and non-democratic.
3. **Geopolitical Rivalry within P5:** has prevented the UNSC from coming up with effective mechanisms to deal with global issues.
4. **Threat to State’s Sovereignty:** UNSC decisions are binding on all member countries, unlike the General Assembly’s. This means that any state’s sovereignty can be encroached upon if necessary by taking action, such as imposing sanctions.

Way Forward:

1. **Democratization of UNSC.**
2. **Expansion of UNSC:** including expanding its permanent and non-permanent seats
3. **Equitable Representation:** of all the regions in the UNSC
4. The decentralization of the UNSC’s decision-making processes will enable its transformation to a more representative, participatory body.

India made a push for UNSC reform hosting a meeting of two separate groupings – [G-4](#) and [L-69](#) – in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

The L. 69 Group is a group of developing countries from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific.

As India leads [Global South](#), it needs to revitalise its engagement with its traditional partners in the “global south” by articulating their peace and security concerns in the UNSC.

Global South:

1. The term Global South was first coined in 1969 by political activist Carl Oglesby.
2. It gained momentum after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, which marked the end of the “Second World.” Previously, developing nations were commonly referred to as the “Third World”.



Definition and Scope:

- **Global South:** Refers to countries often termed developing or underdeveloped, primarily in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It signifies a set of political, economic, and social similarities rather than strict geographical boundaries.
- **Global North:** Encompasses wealthier nations mostly in North America and Europe, with some in Oceania and beyond.
- **Definition:** Not strictly geographical; combines political, geopolitical, and economic similarities among nations.
- **Regions:**
 - ❖ Typically includes countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America characterized as developing or underdeveloped.
- **Comparison with Global North:**
 - ❖ Global South nations experience higher poverty, income inequality, and challenging living conditions compared to wealthier Global North nations.
- **Historical Context:**
 - ❖ Many Global South countries have a history of imperialism and colonial rule, particularly in Africa.

Significance of Global South

1. Economic and Political Shift:

- ❖ By 2030, three of the four largest global economies will be from the Global South (e.g., China, India).

1. Geopolitical Impact:

- ❖ Asian nations are expected to play a major role in the “Asian Century,” influencing a shift towards a “post-Western world.”

2. Cultural Diversity:

- ❖ Rich in languages, traditions, and histories, contributing to global cultural richness and exchange.

3. Development Challenges:

- ❖ Faces issues like poverty, inequality, and access to basic services crucial for sustainable development.

4. South-South Cooperation:

- ❖ Collaboration among Global South countries to share knowledge, technology, and resources.

5. Decolonization and Empowerment:

- ❖ History of colonization has shaped independence movements and global politics.

6. Environmental Impact:

- ❖ Home to ecologically diverse regions; disproportionately affected by climate change.

7. Humanitarian Concerns:

- ❖ Experiences frequent crises including conflicts, disasters, and health emergencies requiring international support.

Challenges to the Global South**1. Green Energy Funding:**

- ❖ Global North’s higher emissions contribute to climate change while neglecting to fund green energy for less developed countries.

2. Impact of Russia-Ukraine War:

- ❖ Affects food, energy, and financial stability, threatening development prospects of least-developed countries (LDCs).

3. China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):

- ❖ Questions remain on whether BRI benefits both parties equally or favors China’s interests.

4. US Hegemony:

- ❖ US dominance and dollar reliance impede the transition to a multipolar world.

5. Inadequate Resource Access:

- ❖ Historical gaps in resource access hinder developmental outcomes and industrialization.

6. Impact of Covid-19:

- ❖ Pandemic exacerbates existing divides with severe social and economic impacts on the Global South.

7. Economic Vulnerability:

- ❖ Countries like Argentina, Egypt, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka face significant economic instability.

India’s Focus on Global South**1. Global South Centre of Excellence:**

- ❖ Researches development solutions and best practices for implementation in other developing countries.

2. Global South Science and Technology Initiative:

- ❖ Shares Indian expertise in fields like space technology and nuclear energy.

3. Aarogya Maitri Project:

- ❖ Provides medical supplies to developing countries affected by disasters or crises.

4. Global South Young Diplomats Forum:

- ❖ Connects young diplomats from developing countries.

5. Global South Scholarships:

- ❖ Offers higher education opportunities in India for students from developing countries.

Conclusion

The rise of the Global South as an economic and political force has challenged traditional power dynamics and brought attention to the changing global order.

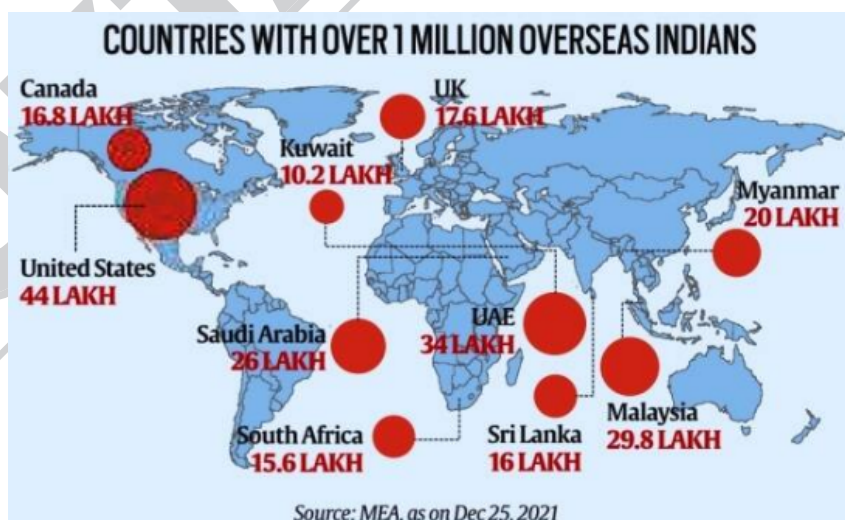
As the Global South continues to assert itself, it reshapes geopolitics, heralding a new era where nations from Africa, Asia, and Latin America play increasingly significant roles in shaping the future of international relations.

Indian Diaspora

The Indian diaspora comprises over **18 million persons of Indian origin** and **13 million non-resident Indians** – making it the largest overseas community globally.

1. According to the **Parliamentary Committee on External Affairs**, there were **4.7 (four point seven) crore Indians (including students also)** as of **December 31, 2021**.

- ❖ Parliamentary panel to the government in its report titled **“Welfare of Indian diaspora: Policies & Schemes” recommends** The profile and geographical distribution of the Indian diaspora presents a great opportunity to promote the country’s soft power and cultural diplomacy abroad.
- ❖ The committee also said there is **need to prepare a clear and comprehensive policy framework to engage more proactively with the Indians living abroad**. Of the **55 recommendations** made, the government has accepted **43 recommendations**.



2. According to the **World Bank Migration and Development Brief**, released in **2022**, for the first time a single country, India, is on track to receive more than **USD 100 billion** in yearly remittances.
3. India received **USD 120 billion** in remittances in **2023** with growth at **7.5%**.
4. It is forecasted to grow at **3.7% in 2024** to reach **USD 124 billion**, while the growth estimate for **2025 is 4%** and it is expected to reach **USD 129 billion** by 2025.

5. In 2023, India topped in remittances inflow list, followed by **Mexico (USD 66 billion)**, **China (USD 50 billion)**, the **Philippines (USD 39 billion)**, and **Pakistan (USD 27 billion)**.
6. The **World Migration Report** notes that India, China, Mexico, the Philippines and Egypt are (in descending order) among the top five remittance recipient countries.

Significance of the Indian Diaspora

1. **Bridge for Development:**
 - ❖ Facilitates access to knowledge, expertise, resources, and markets for their country of origin.
2. **Soft Diplomacy:**
 - ❖ Plays a role in India's diaspora diplomacy, e.g., contributing to the Indo-US Nuclear deal.
3. **Contribution to Host Countries:**
 - ❖ Enhances growth and development in countries of residence, e.g., success in Silicon Valley.
4. **Science & Technology:**
 - ❖ Significant contributions in the field of science and technology.
5. **Trans-national Entrepreneurship:**
 - ❖ Drives trade and investment in India through entrepreneurial activities.
6. **Remittances:**
 - ❖ Major source of remittances aiding in balancing the current account and supporting socio-economic development. Currently the largest earner of remittances globally according to the World Bank.
7. **Cultural Diffusion:**
 - ❖ Spreads Indian culture and traditions abroad, e.g., Yoga, Ayurveda, Indian cuisine.

Challenges Posed by the Diaspora

1. **Inclusion Issues:**
 - ❖ Conventions like the PBD (Pravasi Bharatiya Divas) may exclude low/semi-skilled and blue-collar workers in the diaspora.
2. **Job Cuts:**
 - ❖ Slower global growth and low oil prices due to the shale gas boom are resulting in job losses for Indians abroad.
3. **Discriminatory Practices:**
 - ❖ Racism and colonial mindsets persist, making it difficult to secure jobs and work visas.
4. **Inconsistent Support:**
 - ❖ Diaspora support is not always reliable; for example, insufficient opposition to restrictive visa proposals like Trump's H-1B visa changes.
5. **Dual Citizenship:**
 - ❖ Many Indians prefer to retain Indian citizenship alongside that of their country of residence.
6. **Terror Funding:**
 - ❖ Risk of remittances being used for extremist activities, e.g., foreign funding for movements like Khalistan.
7. **Brain Drain:**
 - ❖ High number of Indians pursuing higher education and careers abroad results in a loss of talent for India's

research and development sectors.

8. Labour Market Impact:

- ❖ Policies like e-Migrate and Minimum Referral Wages have led companies to hire labor from other countries, affecting Indian labor market dynamics.

Way Forward:

1. To ensure that Diaspora members feel welcomed on their arrival in India, easier procedures for immigration and customs clearances that are marked by courteous service are essential.
2. The [participation and involvement in the PBD convention](#) should be more broad-based, including vulnerable segments of the diaspora community.
3. Address the problems of our overseas blue-collar workers and
4. Negotiating a Standard Labour Export Agreements with the host countries
5. Monitoring and supervision of our overseas workers by our Missions
6. Compulsory insurance schemes covering the risks faced by our overseas workers
7. Welfare of Indian Women married to NRIs/PIOs
8. The Government should consider issuing special infrastructure bonds for attracting NRI/PIO investments on the lines of the Israel Bonds.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

Hard Power:

Power in international relations has traditionally been understood in the context of military and economic might. It is known as Hard power (which is quantifiable).

Hard power is deployed in the form of coercion:

1. Using force
2. the threat of force
3. economic sanctions etc.

Example: Strength of Army, Numbers of Nuclear Weapon, Economic Sanctions.

Soft Power:

Soft power is the ability to shape the preferences of others through appeal and attraction. Concept of soft power emerged in post-cold war world.

The three pillars of soft power are:

1. Political values
2. culture and
3. foreign policy

India's Soft power: Democracy, Vasudaiva kutumbakam, Indian Diaspora, Yoga, etc

A Nation need both hard and soft power, the ability to coerce others as well as the ability to shape their long-term attitudes and preferences to build successful foreign policy.

The Committee on External Affairs has recently presented its 16th Report on the prospects and limitations of [India's Soft Power](#) and Cultural Diplomacy.

India's Soft Power and Diplomacy

In addition to economic and military power, the idea of Soft Power has gained traction during the past few decades. Indian arts, culture, yoga and spiritualism, culinary varieties, festivals, music and dance forms etc, have attracted people from all around the world for centuries.

1. **For creating Goodwill:** Indian ethos and practices has helped it build a benevolent image and tremendous goodwill globally, but it has to be backed with quality project delivery.
2. **As a Strategic Investment:** To become a leading strategic investor in commercially viable and financially attractive [public-private partnership](#) infrastructure projects, India needs to deliver on its promises.
3. **Post-Pandemic Changes:** With increased scope of cooperation and the realisation that global problems require global efforts, India's role has gained prominence as the [pharmacy of the World](#).
4. **Trade and Investment Flow:** To build an image of a trusted and reliable partner, India needs to make other countries believe in its commitment to deliver. This will lead to rising [trade and investment flows](#) to growing Indian markets.
5. **Agreements and Communication:** The projection of Soft power can help India establish agreement and communication between states through peaceful methods. It also helps build a brand for itself by promoting its Non-aligned commitments, Democratic values, morals, ethos, etc.
6. In order to **Reach Globally:** There is no denying the fact that India can use these instruments of soft power to reach out to the global audience—in turn, making an all-embracing impact on the worldwide market.
7. India's ancient **wisdom and spirituality** needed to be utilised to capitalise on India's leadership role in the world.

Challenges:

1. **Lack of Funds:** With limited capacity to fund infrastructure projects, India needs to rationally allot its funds, keeping in mind its strategic objectives. Moreover, improving the Indian economy and opening up the market can help India to accumulate funds for international projects.
2. **Lack of Institutional Framework:** India needs an independent development partnership agency that develops long-term and short-term strategies, identifies priorities, builds knowledge and facilitates learning. It needs to remove [Internal institutional hurdles](#), such as policy and bureaucratic delays, to meet its infrastructure targets.

Recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee

1. **Overseas Centres:** Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) should facilitate the opening of more [AYUSH](#) (Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homeopathy) centres overseas in a “strategic and planned manner”.
2. **Yoga Certification Board:** In the context of the government's push to popularise yoga through initiatives such as the [International Day of Yoga](#) and setting up of other related facilities, the panel recommended that the ministries of AYUSH and external affairs should set up a ‘Yoga Certification Board for certifying Indian yogic practices and therapies’.
3. **Diaspora Collaboration:** The [Indian diaspora](#), too, is a major asset of India's soft power diplomacy. Collaboration with the Indian diaspora should also be encouraged to disseminate India's soft power in regions where it is not yet widely known.
4. **In the Field of Medicine:** Concerted efforts to get recognition of [Ayurveda](#) as a system of medicine and adopt the [pharmacopeia](#) of India so that the products can be exported as medicine.

Ayurveda does not have a recognised pharmacopeia, which is why such products are being exported as dietary supplements and nutraceuticals. The products are still not recognised in most of the foreign countries.

1. **Pricing System:** On the issue of the differential pricing of tickets to monuments for foreigners and Indians, the panel suggested that the pricing system “may be revisited” since such a policy is unnecessary in a globalised world.

Such differential pricing leads to a loss of a large segment of foreign travellers.

2. **Budgetary Allocation:** The panel sought an enhanced annual budgetary allocation of ₹500 crore for the Indian Council For Cultural Relations (ICCR) for “conducting India’s soft power and cultural diplomacy in a robust and extensive manner”.
3. **Coordination Committee:** Establishment of a coordination committee consisting of representatives from the MEA and other ministries to overcome the lack of coordination among multiple institutions in projecting India’s soft power and cultural diplomacy.
4. **A Policy Document:** The MEA should also prepare a policy document on “India’s soft power projections, delineating India’s soft power toolbox and manner in which it is being projected abroad along a vision statement for the future”.

Way Forward

In its capacity as the biggest democracy in the world, India’s soft power should extend beyond simply sharing election best practices, to also countering executive overreach through a sophisticated framework of democratic institutions.

The other way to overcome a shortage of money and minds on the job is to examine how the private sector can be included to fill some of the gaps left by official agencies.

What is a 2+2 Meeting?

The 2+2 meetings signify the participation of two high-level representatives, Ministers holding Foreign and Defence portfolios, from each of the two countries who aim to enhance the scope of dialogue between them.

Having such a mechanism enables the partners to better understand and appreciate each other’s strategic concerns and sensitivities taking into account political factors on both sides, in order to build a stronger, more integrated strategic relationship in a rapidly changing global environment.

India’s 2+2 Partners: The US is India’s oldest and most important 2+2 talks partner. Additionally, India has held 2+2 meetings with ministers from Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom and Russia.

MODEL ANSWERS

1. What is soft power? How is it strength for India in international relations?

Soft Power Diplomacy refers to the international policy adopted by a nation which shows its **ability to modify other states' preferences without force or coercion**. In other words, soft power involves shaping the preferences of others through appeal and attraction.

A defining feature of soft power is that it is non-coercive; the currency of soft power includes culture, political values, and foreign policies. India has ranked 27th, in the Global Soft-Power Index 2020. India's soft power has diverse components like films, Yoga, Ayurveda, political pluralism, religious diversity, diaspora, and foreign aid.

Soft Power - strength for India in international relations

1. **Diplomacy need not backed by the military and economic hard power.** This presents a 'technology' in our hand to compete and overtake Chinese 'check book' diplomacy.
2. It gives moral high ground at world forum especially due to non-violent manner in which we had achieved our independence.
3. International Support for internally tough decisions like abrogation of article 370.
4. It keeps India distant from world conflicts like recently in Syria, Sudan, and Israel-Pal-estine issue.
5. It helps India in balancing her relation- ships with different countries.
6. Diaspora is helpful in influencing the policymakers of other countries vis-à-vis India.
7. Helps in getting support of smaller nations in international forums like UNSC, WTO, and UNFCCC etc.
8. Though slower to yield results, soft power is a less expensive means than military force or economic inducements to get others to do what a country wants.

India had long been content with its indirect soft power capacities hence did not use it directly. As the world's largest democracy and with inherent soft power advantages over others India should use it proactively.

Thus it provides ample scope for India to capitalise on its soft power using diplomatic platforms smartly and fulfil her national interest in a better manner.

2. What do you understand by Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty? Discuss its success in preventing nuclear proliferation around the world along with concerns remaining. State India's stand on NPT.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) came into force in 1970 as a binding commitment for the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States.

It is described as the "cornerstone of global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament" and it is among the most widely-adhered-to global treaties.

A total of 191 States have joined the Treaty, including the five nuclear-weapon States.

India is a non-signatory to this treaty along with Pakistan, Israel and North Korea.

NPT Review Conference is held every five years to review the operation of the treaty and consider means to strengthen it.

The treaty defines nuclear-weapon states as those that have built and tested a nuclear explosive device before 1 January 1967; these are the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China.

Objectives of NPT

1. To prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology
2. To promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy
3. To further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament

Success of NPT

1. **Dramatic reduction** in the number of nuclear weapons of two cold era super powers: From a peak of 70,300 warheads in 1986 to around 14,000 at present, with the US and Russia accounting for over 12,500.
2. **Successfully prevented proliferation around the world:** Very few states have remained outside the treaty and have gone on to develop nuclear weapons.

Since 1970, only four countries have acquired nuclear weapons, bringing the total number of nuclear weapon-states to nine.

3. **Additional Protocol for detection**

This has created the right for inspectors to go to places where they suspect business.

The treaty facilitates cooperation on peaceful applications of nuclear technology under the watch of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It has helped make the nuclear inspections in the Iran nuclear deal much more effective and in years ahead with North Korea.

4. **Creating nuclear weapon free zones**

Additionally, the states of many regions of the world have chosen to be part of nuclear-weapon-free zones in strong demonstration of their commitment to the objective of a world without nuclear weapons.

Concerns remaining related to NPT

1. **Power with P5 members**

The five nuclear weapon states recognised by the NPT (N-5) are also the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (P-5), giving rise to the inevitable conclusion that nuclear weapons remain the currency of political and military power.

2. Increasing investment for nuclear arsenal and emergence of new technologies.
3. New technologies and types of weapons—including offensive cyber, counter-space, and hypersonic weapons could further destabilize the security environment.
4. Russia is increasingly relying on nuclear weapons with new investments into various exotic nuclear capabilities.
5. Unsettled international security environment
6. U.S. withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA); Iran rebuilding its enrichment program and tensions escalating between Saudi Arabia-Iran; Turkey's aspirations of being nuclear power; U.S.-North Korea negotiations at a halt, may polarise nations to adopt the path of nuclear proliferation.
7. Non-compliance

It is the most serious non-proliferation challenge facing the NPT. The failure of some non-nuclear-weapon state parties to the treaty to comply with the NPT's provisions and their safeguards obligations erodes confidence and undermines the goals of the treaty.

NPT has been unable to prevent non-signatories India, Israel, and Pakistan from crossing the nuclear threshold and to prevent former NPT signatory North Korea from becoming a nuclear-armed state.

8. Possession of weapon

NPT does not forbid a non-weapon state from possessing nuclear weapons (It forbids the acquisition, but in theory country with weapons could sign the NPT as a non-weapon state and not give up weapons already made).

9. The treaty has no sanctions for violators or for withdrawal from the treaty.

India's stand on NPT

1. India refused to join the treaty on the basis that it was a discriminatory because of its grouping of countries. India believes it is a biased legal instrument that divided the world into "nuclear haves" and "nuclear have-nots"
2. India did not join the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state since nuclear weapons constitute an integral part of India's security.
3. Treaty also requires countries to give up any present or future plans to build nuclear weapons in return for access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

4. India has been a consistent advocate of global nuclear disarmament since the inception of the concept in the United Nations.

However, in spite of India not joining NPT, India's unblemished record on non-proliferation and its consistently responsible posture on nuclear weapons that enabled it to successfully conclude the Indo-US nuclear deal in 2008 and to obtain a waiver from the guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), enabling it to resume international cooperation in the nuclear domain and gain access to the international civil nuclear market.

3. **Indian diaspora policy's evolution from non-interference to active engagement in recent times has its own challenges. Critically examine.**

According to the Global Migration Report 2024, the Indian diaspora remains the largest globally, with approximately 19 million people of Indian origin residing across over 150 countries. This diaspora is not only the largest but also highly successful economically, often ranking among the most educated and prosperous communities in their host countries.

Active Engagement with the Diaspora

India's engagement with its diaspora is multifaceted, focusing on both supporting overseas Indians and leveraging their potential for national growth. Key measures include:

- **Ministry of External Affairs:** Handles matters related to the Indian diaspora, replacing the earlier Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.
- **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Card:** Provides lifelong visa-free travel to India and other benefits.
- **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD):** An annual event to celebrate the contributions of the diaspora.
- **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award:** Honors notable members of the diaspora.
- **NRI Funds:** Encourages investment and philanthropy by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).
- **Voting Rights:** Allows overseas Indian citizens to vote in Indian elections.

Currently, Indian engagement with the diaspora is two-pronged. For one, they cater to the needs of NRIs and OCIs by providing them with consular services, protection and conduct outreach activities to engage with them. At the same time, they create policies to encourage the diaspora to contribute to India's growth through philanthropy, knowledge transfers, and investments.

Advantages of Active Engagement with the Diaspora

1. **Remittances:** Engaging with the Indian diaspora has significantly boosted remittances. In 2023, India remained the top recipient of remittances globally, receiving approximately \$87 billion from Indians abroad.
2. **Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship:** The strong ties with the diaspora have fostered the growth of technology and entrepreneurship in India. Indian start-ups such as Zomato and Freshworks benefit from this dynamic, with diaspora investment and expertise driving innovation and socio-economic development.
3. **Diaspora Diplomacy:** Large and influential diaspora communities enhance India's global political influence. This "diaspora diplomacy" helps counteract adversarial influences and strengthens India's economic networks worldwide.
4. **Soft Power:** The Indian diaspora plays a crucial role in promoting Indian culture and values internationally, enhancing India's soft power through cultural exchange and societal influence.

Challenges of Active Engagement with the Diaspora

1. **Diverse Interests:** Diaspora interests may not always align with India's national priorities. For example, the Indian community in the U.S. has been less vocal regarding visa restrictions that affect many Indians.
2. **Misuse of Remittances:** There are concerns about remittances being used for undesirable purposes. For instance, issues related to funding extremist movements have occasionally arisen.
3. **Support Limitations:** India's capacity to support its diaspora in all situations is limited. The cost of evacuating Indians from crisis zones, like the recent evacuations from Sudan, demonstrates the challenges involved.
4. **Economic Instability:** Economic downturns in regions like the Middle East can lead to job losses for Indians,

creating difficulties for Indian missions and impacting repatriation efforts.

5. **Perception of Interference:** India must balance its engagement with the diaspora to avoid perceptions of interference in the domestic affairs of host countries. Ensuring the safety and well-being of its citizens abroad should not lead to diplomatic conflicts.

Conclusion

To maximize the benefits of its diaspora while minimizing potential drawbacks, India should develop a robust and flexible policy framework. This strategy will enable India to effectively leverage the strengths of its global diaspora, supporting its ambition to become a knowledge-driven and economically advanced nation. India's Focus should be on

1. Utilize the diaspora's strengths to support India's development goals. Enhances India's potential to become a knowledge-power and a developed country.
2. Ensure that engaging with the diaspora does not negatively impact India's relations with foreign nations. While safeguarding the well-being of Indian citizens abroad is important, India must manage this focus carefully to avoid diplomatic conflicts.

By adopting these measures, India can harness the full potential of its diaspora while navigating the complexities of international relations.

4. **Do you think that the United Nations (UN) is losing its significance? Critically comment. What are reforms that are pending from long time in the United Nations (UN)?**

The United Nations (UN) is an international organization founded in 1945, currently comprising 193 Member States. It has been involved in various humanitarian, environmental, and peacekeeping efforts since its inception.

Decreasing Significance of UN:

1. **Failure in Conflict Resolution:** The UN has struggled to prevent or resolve major conflicts, such as those in Syria, Iraq, Libya, and Yemen. This raises questions about the UN's effectiveness in maintaining global peace.
2. **Non-Compliance with UN Protocol:** The UN has been unable to enforce compliance with its protocols, as seen in the case of North Korea's nuclear activities. This undermines the credibility of the UN in upholding international norms.
3. **Outdated Structure:** The UN's structure reflects post-World War II geopolitics, not the current global power dynamics, including the emergence of the Global South and G4 UNSC bid. This limits the UN's ability to address contemporary global challenges effectively.
4. **Emergence of Alternative Institutions:** Institutions like the G20 and G8 have taken on roles previously occupied by the UN, questioning its relevance. This reduces the UN's influence in global governance.
5. **New Global Challenges:** The UN lacks the institutional expertise to address emerging issues such as cybersecurity, global commons, and climate change. The UN struggles to keep up with new and complex global challenges.
6. **Micromanagement by Member States:** The UN Secretariat is often micromanaged by member states through various General Assembly committees. This hampers the efficiency and autonomy of the Secretariat.

However for various reasons UN relevance cannot be ignored in present times

1. **Global Credibility:** The UN remains the only credible, respected, and truly global organization. It provides a universal platform for addressing global issues.
2. **Forum for Debate:** It offers a forum for debates and discussions on global issues. Facilitates global consensus on critical matters like climate change through mechanisms such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
3. **Global Security and Human Rights:** Plays a critical role in global security and human rights through peacekeeping forces and bodies like the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Addresses international crises and supports human rights.
4. **Sanctions on Rogue States:** Provides a way to address rogue or belligerent nations through sanctions, as seen with Iran, Russia, and North Korea. Helps manage international conflicts without escalating tensions.

5. **Response to Global Crises:** The UN has faced difficulties responding to global crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, with limited effectiveness in areas like the Security Council due to geopolitical conflicts. Highlights the need for reform to address emerging global threats.

Reforms Needed to Strengthen the UN

1. **Security Council Reforms:** The current composition reflects post-World War II realities and lacks representation from regions like Far East Asia, South America, and Africa. The use of veto powers by permanent members often serves geopolitical interests, affecting global peace efforts.
 - ❖ Consider expanding permanent membership and revising veto power usage.
2. **General Assembly Reforms:** The General Assembly's recommendations are non-binding, limiting its effectiveness. This undermines the UN's ability to enact meaningful change.
 - ❖ Enhance the decision-making power of the General Assembly.
3. **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Reform:** ECOSOC is overshadowed by institutions like the IMF and World Bank, which lack democratic process. Reduces the UN's influence in economic and social matters.
 - ❖ Strengthen ECOSOC's role and integrate it better with global financial institutions.
4. **Financial Reforms:** The UN faces a financial crisis due to inconsistent member contributions. Limits the UN's ability to function effectively.
 - ❖ Develop more stable and predictable funding mechanisms.
5. **Review of Jurisdictional Issues Peacekeeping Operations:** UN peacekeeping forces are often under-resourced and lack structural efficiency. Limits their effectiveness in maintaining peace.
 - ❖ Increase personnel and undertake structural reforms for better operational effectiveness.
6. **Enhanced Role in Development and Humanitarian Work:** The UN's role in development and humanitarian efforts needs strengthening. Expands its impact on global health, education, and environmental issues.
 - ❖ Broaden the UN's involvement in these critical areas.

The UN remains a vital global institution, but its effectiveness is hindered by outdated structures, financial constraints, and new global challenges. Reforming its structures and processes is essential to enhance its relevance and ability to address contemporary issues. While the UN continues to play a critical role in global governance, adapting to the changing international landscape is crucial for maintaining its legitimacy and effectiveness.

5. **UN Peacekeeping requires reforms to keep its operations fit-for-purpose. In this context, discuss the challenges faced by the UN Peacekeeping. Also, suggest reforms to improve its operations.**

UN peacekeepers play a crucial role in maintaining and restoring peace in conflict zones around the world. Their missions are designed to provide stability, protect civilians, and support the process of peacebuilding. However, the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations is often challenged by various issues. Below is a detailed overview of UN peacekeepers, their roles, challenges, and potential reforms:

Roles and Functions of UN Peacekeepers

1. **Maintaining Peace and Security:** Peacekeepers help to stabilize conflict zones by monitoring ceasefires, overseeing the disarmament of combatants, and supporting the implementation of peace agreements. For eg. The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) assists in maintaining stability in a region affected by internal conflict.
2. **Protecting Civilians:** Peacekeepers are deployed to protect vulnerable populations from violence, including preventing attacks on civilians and safeguarding humanitarian aid. For Eg. The UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) provides protection to civilians in areas affected by armed conflict.
3. **Supporting Political Processes:** They assist in the organization of elections, facilitate dialogue between conflicting parties, and support the establishment of democratic institutions. For Eg. The UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) supports the peace process and helps with electoral support and

political dialogue.

4. **Facilitating Humanitarian Assistance:** Peacekeepers often provide security for humanitarian operations and aid organizations operating in conflict zones. For Eg. Peacekeepers in Haiti have provided security to aid workers responding to natural disasters and ongoing humanitarian needs.
5. **Training and Capacity Building:** They assist local security forces and institutions in building their capacities to maintain peace and security after the mission ends. For Eg. The UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) helped train and support local security forces in post-conflict recovery.

Challenges Faced by UN Peacekeeping

1. **Mandate Overreach and Ambiguity:** Missions often have broad or unclear mandates that can lead to confusion about their objectives and limitations. This can cause mission creep where peacekeepers are involved in tasks beyond their mandate.
2. **Resource Constraints:** Peacekeeping operations frequently suffer from inadequate resources, including funding, personnel, and equipment. For Eg. The UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) has faced criticism for its limited resources in addressing ongoing violence in the region.
3. **Security Risks:** Peacekeepers operate in high-risk environments where they are vulnerable to attacks from armed groups and other hostile actors. For Eg. Peacekeepers in Mali have been targeted by terrorist groups, resulting in significant casualties.
4. **Political Constraints and Lack of Local Support:** Local political dynamics and resistance can undermine peacekeeping efforts, affecting the mission's effectiveness. For Eg. In South Sudan, political conflicts and lack of cooperation from local factions have hampered peacekeeping operations.
5. **Coordination and Integration Issues:** Coordination among various UN agencies, NGOs, and local authorities can be fragmented, leading to inefficiencies and duplicated efforts.
6. **Accountability and Conduct:** There have been instances of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, by peacekeepers. For Eg. Scandals involving peacekeepers in Haiti and the Central African Republic have damaged the reputation of UN peacekeeping missions.
7. **Exit Strategies and Sustainability:** Missions often lack clear exit strategies and long-term sustainability plans, leading to prolonged deployments without clear benchmarks for success. For Eg. The prolonged presence of peacekeepers in Cyprus, despite reduced conflict levels, highlights the challenge of defining effective exit strategies.

Suggested Reforms for Improvement

1. **Clarify and Streamline Mandates:** Ensure that peacekeeping mandates are clear, specific, and achievable. Avoid overly broad mandates that can lead to mission creep. Clearer mandates will help focus efforts and improve operational effectiveness.
2. **Enhance Resource Allocation:** Increase investment in peacekeeping resources, including personnel, equipment, and funding. Establish more reliable funding mechanisms. Improved resources will enhance mission capabilities and safety.
3. **Improve Coordination and Integration:** Establish better mechanisms for coordination among UN agencies, NGOs, and local authorities. Develop integrated strategies to align efforts. Enhanced coordination will lead to more efficient and cohesive operations.
4. **Strengthen Accountability and Conduct Standards:** Implement stricter accountability measures and conduct standards. Increase transparency and establish independent oversight mechanisms. Higher standards of conduct will restore trust and improve the reputation of peacekeeping forces.
5. **Develop Clear Exit Strategies:** Design and implement clear exit strategies with benchmarks for success and sustainability plans for transitioning responsibilities to local authorities. Clear exit strategies will ensure that missions are effectively concluded and peace is sustained.
6. **Enhance Training and Capacity Building:** Invest in comprehensive training programs for peacekeepers, focusing on conflict resolution, cultural sensitivity, and operational skills. Better-trained peacekeepers will improve mission outcomes and support long-term stability.

By addressing these challenges and implementing these reforms, the UN can enhance the effectiveness of its peacekeeping operations, contributing to more stable and peaceful environments in conflict-affected regions.