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## THE MOST **EXPERIENCED & SEASONED** **SUBJECT EXPERT**

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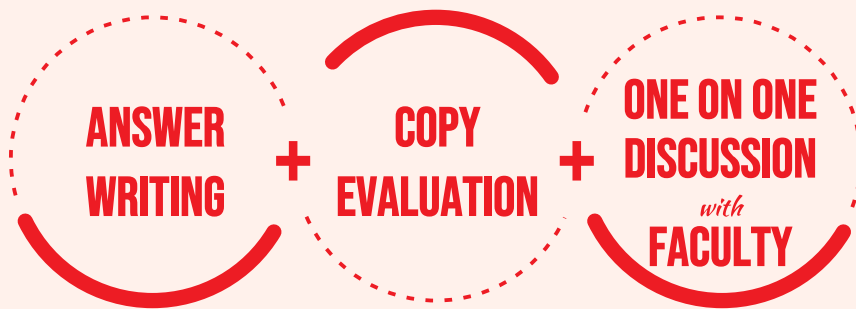
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# INDIA & ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD

## 1. INDIA-SRI LANKA

**Context:** India has been the first responder with credits and rollovers and humanitarian support to help Sri Lanka get through the crisis. This has rejuvenated the relations between India-Sri Lanka while also generating goodwill from the people.

### Background:

- Since early 2022, Sri Lanka has been facing its worst economic crisis resulting in severe power cuts and shortages of basics such as fuel while the inflation rate hovering around 50%.
- The country has been facing some challenges like high debt for the last few years but the COVID pandemic aggravated the situation.

### Assistance provided by India:

- **Economic aid:** India supported Sri Lanka through Lines of Credit (LoCs) and currency swap agreements. Total economic aid to the country at the end of 2022 reached more than \$4bn.
- **Supply of essentials:** India supplied petroleum products and essential goods like food and medicines.
- **Support at the IMF:** India was the first country to hand over its letter of support for financing and debt restructuring of Sri Lanka to the IMF.

### Reasons for the crisis:

- **Economic mismanagement:** Corruption, mismanagement of state-owned enterprises and inefficient government spending are some of the challenges faced by the country for the last few years.
- **Global financial headwinds:** Sri Lanka has become increasingly reliant on external borrowing to finance its budget deficits leaving the country vulnerable to external shocks. In May 2022 it failed to make an interest payment on its foreign debt for the first time in its history hurting the country's credit in the international market.
- **Decline in exports:** A drop in external demand, increasing global competition, and lack of diversification decreased the country's overall exports and the forex reserve.
- **Decline in agricultural output:** The government completely banned all fertilizer imports in 2021 to promote organic farming. This severely affected the food production in the country translating into **high food prices**.
- **Russia-Ukraine War:** The war exacerbated the economic situation due to Russia being the second biggest market to Sri Lanka in tea exports and Sri Lanka's tourism sector is heavily reliant upon tourists from Russia.
- **Pandemic and related challenges:** Covid pandemic coupled with worldwide travel restrictions crippled the tourism industry of the country which contributes to 10% of the GDP. This affected its foreign exchange reserves.
- **Political instability:** Frequent changes in the government in the past few years led to uncertainty which deterred foreign investment and contributed to the crisis.

### Impact of the assistance on the relations:

- **Increased bilateral ties:** India's assistance to Sri Lanka has helped strengthen the bilateral ties which have witnessed some fluctuations in the recent past due to reasons including maritime disputes, and ethnic clashes in Sri Lanka.
- **Flow of trade and investment:** As Sri Lanka's economy recovers, there will be increased opportunities for the flow of trade and investment between the two countries.
- **Enhanced goodwill for India:** India has provided Sri Lanka with essential goods like food grains, fertilizers, fuels, etc. during one of the worst crises hence, generating goodwill from the people of the country.

#### Practice Question:

**Q. India needs greater investments in the Sri Lankan economy to reduce the strategic stronghold of China in the island nation. In this context, examine the impacts of India's recent support to Sri Lanka.**

## 2. INSTABILITY IN PAKISTAN

**Context:** Pakistan has been convulsed by political (political paralysis) and economic crises (exploding inflation) which has security implications for India.

#### Background:

- Amid skyrocketing inflation, political crisis and surging terrorism, the country is facing the risk of a default due to its massive external debt obligations.
- This burden has been exacerbated by the derailment of the \$6.5 billion **International Monetary Fund (IMF) program** Pakistan entered in 2019, as the international lender is unsatisfied with Pakistan's commitment to reform and ability to arrange for funds to meet external financing requirements.

#### Implications for India:

- **Cross-Border Terrorism:** Pakistan has been a source of cross-border terrorism, with several terrorist groups operating from its territory. These groups have carried out attacks on Indian soil, posing a significant security challenge for India.
- **Proxy Warfare:** Pakistan has engaged in proxy warfare by supporting and sponsoring militant groups that target India. These groups operate in Indian-administered Kashmir and other parts of India, leading to a volatile security situation. India has faced the challenge of countering these proxy warfare tactics and maintaining peace and stability in the region.
- **Nuclear Concerns:** Both India and Pakistan are nuclear-armed countries, which adds an additional dimension of complexity to their relationship. The potential for nuclear escalation in the event of a major conflict poses a significant challenge to India's national security and regional stability.
- **Diplomatic Challenges:** Pakistan's support for cross-border terrorism and its attempts to internationalize the Kashmir issue present diplomatic challenges for India.
- **Regional Instability:** Instability in Pakistan can have spillover effects on the wider region, impacting India's security environment. It can potentially create a breeding ground for terrorist groups, contribute to regional tensions, and affect the stability of neighboring countries.
- **No strong player in Pakistan right now:** The crisis leaves New Delhi without a partner, a credible stakeholder within the Pakistani government.

#### Longstanding disputes

- The ties between the two South Asian rivals have been troubled ever since both countries gained independence from British rule in 1947, and a 2019 terror attack on Indian troops in Kashmir increased tensions even further. Both nations claim the disputed Kashmir region in its entirety.
- New Delhi accuses Islamabad of backing Islamists and separatists in India-administered Kashmir.
- In the same year, New Delhi revoked the special constitutional status enjoyed by the part of Kashmir it controls, further angering Islamabad.



### Can Pakistan exit the situation?

- With all the existing problems, the reality is also that Pakistan has a large military well equipped with modern weaponry and growing nuclear arsenal, which it received from the West and continues to import from its all-weather ally China.
- Pakistan's geographical location facilitated strategic dividends for the state from major powers, including the US and China.
- In the past, Pakistan's debt burdens have been occasionally eased by its friends and allies who believed stability in Pakistan was in their strategic interest.

### Where is the world focusing right now?

- The US has been focused more on its **Indo-Pacific strategy** aimed at countering China.
- The fallouts of the Russia-Ukraine war have engaged the attention of the Muslim world.
- India's economic growth and expanding diplomatic profile have attracted suitable attention and curiosity at the global level.
- Political stability in Pakistan is essential for any kind of dialogue with India. In the line of the statement, outline the challenge created by recent economic and political turmoil in India and the broader region.

#### Practice Question:

**Q. The growing political and economic instabilities in Pakistan are a serious concern for India. Analyse.**

## 3. INDIA-NEPAL

**Context:** In recent years, especially after the **2015 Indian economic blockade**, Nepal has tried to undo India's monopoly over its trading routes by increasing connections with China. The upcoming **Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network** is another way toward that objective.

### Background (India-Nepal):

- India and Nepal share very close ties based on linguistic, religious, and cultural affinity and close people-to-people contacts.
- Nepal, being a **landlocked state** is heavily dependent on India for the supply of essential goods including fuel, and the use of its ports for trade with other countries gives India enormous leverage.
- **Current issues:**
  - Nepal and India have a competing territorial claim over Himalayan land —called **Lipu Lekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani** — located near the borders of Nepal, India and China.
- **Latest developments**
  - Nepal and India are working to increase **cross-border connectivity and energy cooperation**, sealing a number of deals, including a **long-term energy cooperation plan** that paves the way for Nepal to export up to 10,000 megawatts of electricity to India within a decade.

### Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network:

- It is an economic corridor between Nepal and China and part of China's **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**.
- The project involves the building of railways and communication networks.
- It has the vision to transform Nepal from a landlocked country to a **land-linked country**.

### Concerns for India

- **Deep Chinese inroads in India's neighborhood:** It will challenge India's long-held position as the dominant power in the region.
- **Impact on India's security interests:** India and China have been locked in a military standoff since 2020. Chinese deep presence in Nepal will give it **further depth** to push its agenda against India.

- **Growing Chinese influence in Nepal's politics:** China is actively influencing all the political parties, especially the left-wing parties. For example, **Nepali Communist Party (NCP)** has developed close ideological linkages with the **Chinese Communist Party (CCP)**. The increased influence of China in Nepal's politics will affect policy making which can take a detrimental approach towards India.
- **Trade deficit:** Nepal runs a massive trade deficit with India, its largest trading partner. In the fiscal year 2021-2022, Nepal imported \$10 billion (€9 billion) worth of goods and services from India, while exporting \$1.3 billion.

#### India's Advantage:

- **Geographical advantage:** India has a greater geographical advantage compared to China because of the easy terrain. India already has a well-functioning cross-border link with Nepal and some additional linkages are in the pipeline.
- **Greater economic linkage: Open border** with India, and huge employment opportunities make Nepal closer to India than China, it will take a long time for China to make a dent in this relationship.
- **People-to-people link:** India shares extensive **cultural ties** with the terai's inhabitants such as **Madhesis** and **Tharus** which is hard for China to compete.

#### Practice Question:

**Q. Analyze the factors hindering the realization of connectivity potential between India and Nepal. How can regional platforms like BIMSTEC be used to overcome these constraints?**

## 4. INDIA-BANGLADESH

**Context:** Under India's flagship '**Neighbourhood First**' policy, Bangladesh is an important partner. The cooperation between the two countries ranges across all fields including trade and commerce, power and energy, transport and connectivity, science and technology, defense and security, maritime affairs, climate change, and sustainable development among others.

#### Background:

- Bangladesh and India are common members of **SAARC, BIMSTEC, IORA, and the Commonwealth**.
- The two countries share many cultural ties. In particular, Bangladesh and the east Indian state of West Bengal are Bengali-speaking.
- In 1971, the Bangladesh Liberation War broke out between East Pakistan and West Pakistan; India intervened in December 1971 in support of East Pakistan and helped secure its independence from Pakistan as the country of Bangladesh.

#### Importance of Bangladesh for India:

- Connectivity of North East, better integration with India through Bangladesh
- Bridge to Southeast Asia
- Securing sea lines of communication
- Limiting China's influence in the region

#### Areas of Cooperation:

- **Connectivity and Infrastructure:** Projects such as the construction of bridges, roads, and railway links have enhanced connectivity and facilitated trade and people-to-people exchanges. The development of inland waterways and the opening of new border crossings have further improved connectivity.
- **Power and Energy:** India has been supplying electricity to Bangladesh through cross-border transmission lines, addressing Bangladesh's energy needs. The countries have also explored opportunities for cooperation in renewable energy, including solar and wind power.
- **Security Cooperation:** India and Bangladesh cooperate closely on security matters, including intelligence sharing, counterterrorism efforts, and border management. They collaborate to address common security challenges, combat transnational crimes, and exchange information to ensure the safety and security of both countries.

- **Education and Cultural Exchanges:** Scholarships, student exchanges, and cultural festivals are organized to foster educational and cultural cooperation between the two countries.
- **Development Assistance:** India provides development assistance to Bangladesh through lines of credit, grants, and capacity-building programs. Areas of assistance include infrastructure development, agriculture, healthcare, education, and rural development.

### Challenges:

- **Water sharing challenges:** Teesta Water Sharing Agreement, long pending Ganga-Padma barrage project.
- **Illegal migration:** Fate of 1.9 mn Assamese who are rendered stateless after failing to feature in the NRC - this has the potential to harm the bilateral relations.
- **Slow development projects:** Not full utilization of the line of credit provided by India to Bangladesh because of bureaucratic red tape in disbursement.
- **Security issues in the borders areas:** Border Management - porous border, kettle smuggling.

### Practice Question:

**Q. Highlight the importance of strong India-Bangladesh ties for a vibrant north-eastern region in India. In this regard, outline some of the recent steps to strengthen the ties between the two countries.**

## 5. IMPACT OF TALIBAN'S TAKEOVER ON INDIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH WEST ASIA

**Context:** There were concerns related to impacts on India's relations with Central and West Asia because of the crucial role of Afghanistan in India's approach toward these regions.

### Background:

- In August 2021, the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan twenty years after their ouster by the U.S.-led invasion.
- The development was closely watched by India as it created deep security and strategic challenges for the whole region, India particularly.

### Impact of the development on India's relations with Central and West Asia:

- **Threat to physical connectivity:** India invested heavily in the **Zaranj-Delaram Highway in Afghanistan** which acts as a link between Central Asia and the **Chabahar port** in Iran. The initiative became less viable following the Taliban's return to power. The **Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI)** pipeline also got stuck.
- **Increased strategic depth for Pakistan:** With the Taliban ruling Afghanistan, Pakistan has got the upper hand in influencing the politics of the country. It has used it to derail India's approach to the regions.
- **Impact on economic relations with West Asia:** West Asian region is a major supplier of crude oil to India. Instability in Afghanistan has had a ripple effect on countries like Iran that can impact India's economic relations anytime.

### Positive impacts:

- **Increased collaboration:** India has increased its collaboration on defense, security, and intelligence level with the countries in the region. **For ex, I2U2** was launched along with Israel, UAE, and the US.
- **Strengthening of ties with the Gulf countries:** Due to the common challenges of **Central Asian Republics (CARs)**, West Asian countries now aspire for a greater role in India. India along with CARs established a joint working group at the senior officials' level.

### Practice Question:

**Q. Discuss the security implication created by the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan for India. Analyze the success of India's diplomatic and humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan in the aftermath.**

## 6. INDIA-CHINA

**Context:** Due to rising confrontations with China along the border, many commentators have suggested a revisit of **India's Tibet Policy**.

### Background

- The evolution of India's Tibet policy can be traced back to its pre-independence.
- The Government of India (GoI) unhesitatingly received the **14th Dalai Lama**, accompanying monks and others with him when he sought asylum in 1959.
- India is host to the largest community of Tibetans outside of Tibet and the **Central Tibetan Administration (CTA)** is also based in India.
- It is therefore incumbent upon India to take a more pro-active role in the settlement of the Tibet conflict.
- Tibet' is an 'overlap' issue involving China and India.

### What are the present issues?

- Dalai Lama and Tibet issue
- Border dispute

### Need of India to revisit Tibet policy:

- **Asymmetric relations between India and China:** India's border conflicts with China is centered primarily around two large sectors, mostly centered in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. China claims Ladakh as being part of its administered region of Aksai Chin while Arunachal Pradesh as being part of "South Tibet".
  - Both of these conflicts stem from the history of China's occupation of Tibet, India's reluctance, and the endurance of British India's policies in the region.
- **Better securing its interest:** The strategic importance of the region has increased in recent years due to China's increased military and economic presence. Thus, it has been argued that India should adopt a more assertive approach through increased support to the refugees, efforts to highlight the human rights situation, etc.
- **To correct water crisis:** The **ongoing damming of Tibet's rivers** by China directly affects the Indian economy and population directly is the ongoing damming of Tibet's rivers by China. India remains largely an **agriculture-based society and economy** and the **Brahmaputra River** which flows from Tibet has a significant role to play in the survival of the farming community in Northern India.
- **Exploiting China's vulnerability:** In the past, India has been careful in exploiting the issue as a major bargaining card but China on the other hand, had not responded well. It continues to show Arunachal Pradesh as part of Southern Tibet. An aggressive approach will give India a strategic advantage.
- **Increasing global pressure:** Several countries in recent years and decades have called out the Chinese regime for its abysmal records on human rights in Tibet and adjoining regions of Xinjiang, etc.
  - The United States recently passed the **Tibet Policy and Support Act** that officially recognizes that there is a grave human rights problem in Tibet while the **Reciprocal Access Act** lays out punitive measures against Chinese authorities for blocking access to Tibet from the outside.

### Challenges of the move:

- **Increased tensions with China:** China could double down on its strategy on the border which could lead to increased tensions.
- **Lack of international support:** The support for the Tibetan issue has fizzled out in the last few years with increased economic relations of China with major countries. India may have to work independently on the matter.

#### PYQ:

**Q. China is using its economic relations and positive trade surplus as tools to develop potential military power status in Asia', In the light of this statement, discuss its impact on India as her neighbour. (2017)**

**Practice Question:**

**Q. India and China have often competed for strategic dominance in the international and regional order. Elaborate. Suggest some measures which can help India deal with the rise of China efficiently.**

## 7. INDIA-MALDIVES

**Context:** Due to increased competition with China in the **Indian Ocean Region**, Maldives has become one of the most important partners in the region.

**Background:**

- India and Maldives have deep cultural and historical connections. The Maldives has a significant population of Indian origin, and cultural exchanges between the two countries are common.
- The cooperation between India and Maldives spans various sectors, with a focus on security, development, connectivity, and people-to-people exchanges.

**Aspects of cooperation between India-Maldives:**

- **Strategic Partnership:** India and Maldives have a strategic partnership aimed at promoting mutual cooperation and strengthening ties in various areas. The relationship is built on shared democratic values, security cooperation, and development cooperation.
- **Security Cooperation:** India has provided assistance to enhance the capabilities of the Maldivian defense forces, including training, equipment, and joint exercises.
- **Economic Cooperation:** India is one of the major development partners of Maldives. Economic cooperation includes areas such as infrastructure development, connectivity projects, trade, and investment.
- **People-to-People Exchanges:** India and Maldives promote people-to-people exchanges through cultural, educational, and tourism cooperation. Indian tourists visit Maldives in large numbers, and the countries have facilitated visa processes to promote tourism and cultural interactions. Educational scholarships and training programs are also offered to Maldivian students in India.
- **Connectivity and Infrastructure Development:** India and Maldives collaborate on connectivity and infrastructure projects. This includes the development of ports, harbors, and other maritime infrastructure.

**Challenges for India-Maldives relationship:**

- **Political Instability:** Maldives has experienced political instability in the past, including changes in government and strained political dynamics. These uncertainties can impact the continuity and progress of bilateral initiatives, requiring India to adapt and engage with different administrations.
- **Influence of External Powers:** The Maldives is located in a strategically important region, and external powers may seek to exert their influence in the country.
- **Maritime Security Challenges:** The Indian Ocean region faces various maritime security challenges, including piracy, illegal fishing, and smuggling. Collaborative efforts between India and Maldives are necessary to address these challenges effectively, enhance maritime domain awareness, and ensure the safety and security of the Indian Ocean.

**Practice Question:**

**Q. Over the past decade, India and China have been engaged in a tug-of-war to consolidate influence in Maldives. Against this backdrop, analyze the success of India's recent initiatives vis-à-vis the island nation.**



# BILATERAL, REGIONAL & GLOBAL GROUPINGS & AGREEMENTS INVOLVING INDIA AND/OR AFFECTING INDIA'S INTERESTS

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## 1. US, INDIA 'CHANGE THE PARADIGM' FOR DEFENCE COOPERATION

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**Context:** In order to pull India away from its security dependence on Russia, the US administration has been eagerly upgrading its defence ties with New Delhi. In this regard, the launch of a new defence initiative between the two nations called **INDUS-X** has been announced.

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### Background:

- Washington is working to deepen ties with India and sees stronger military-to-military and technology ties with the world's largest democracy as a key counterweight to China's dominance in the region.
- It is also seeking to wean New Delhi away from its traditional dependence on Russia for defence supplies.

### India's arms market

- India, the **world's largest arms importer**, depends on Russia for nearly half its military supplies, but has also increasingly diversified its sources to buy from the US, France and Israel, among others.
- Russia continues to be India's biggest arms supplier, which is a major concern for the US government.
- However, Russia's share in India's arms market has dropped significantly from a whopping 62 per cent in 2017 to a mere 45 per cent in 2022.
- The US is India's third-largest arms supplier with an 11 per cent share, below France's 29 per cent.

### What is INDUS-X?

- INDUS-X stands for enhanced strategic and defence partnership between India and the US.
- It is aimed at deepening the partnership between the US and Indian defence innovation sectors.
- INDUS-X will focus on advancing high-tech cooperation and fostering joint research, development, and production opportunities in the defence sector.
- The initiative aims to explore possibilities for co-producing jet engines, long-range artillery, and infantry vehicles. Secretary Austin highlighted the importance of this initiative and announced that its formal launch would be undertaken during Prime Minister Modi's state visit to Washington.
- With India and US coming together under the **INDUS-X initiative**, India will be in a better position to achieve the \$5 billion target in the upcoming two years.
- This will pave the way for US companies to invest massively in India and build a defence ecosystem.
  - ▶ India has already undertaken such a defence partnership with Russia.
- For instance, the **BrahMos joint venture**, which saw India and Russia co-produce medium-range



**Ramjet Supersonic BrahMos Cruise Missile** that can be launched from submarines, ships, airplanes or land.

### Elements of India-US relationship:

- **Strategic Partnership:** The partnership encompasses political, economic, defense, and people-to-people ties. Both countries engage in regular high-level dialogues and have signed numerous agreements to deepen their collaboration.
- **Economic Cooperation:** The United States is one of India's largest trading partners, and bilateral trade has been growing steadily. The United States has also been a significant source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in India.
- **Defense and Security Cooperation:** The two countries have also signed various defense agreements, including the foundational agreement, such as the **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)**, the **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)**, and the **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)**.
- **Counterterrorism and Homeland Security:** India and the United States cooperate closely in the fight against terrorism and share intelligence and information to combat terrorist threats. Cooperation includes intelligence sharing, capacity building, joint counterterrorism exercises, and collaboration in multilateral forums.
- **Science, Technology, and Innovation:** India and the United States collaborate extensively in the fields of science, technology, and innovation. There are several joint research and development programs, academic exchanges, and collaborations between institutions and industries of both countries.

### Challenges for India-US relationship

- **Trade and Market Access Issues:** Both countries have had disagreements over tariffs, non-tariff barriers, intellectual property rights, and market restrictions. Resolving these issues and promoting a balanced and mutually beneficial trade relationship remains a challenge.
- **Differences in Geopolitical Priorities:** India and the United States have different geopolitical priorities and strategic interests in various regions of the world. Balancing these interests and finding common ground on regional security issues, such as Afghanistan, Iran, and the Indo-Pacific, can be challenging.
- **Defense Technology Transfers:** While defense cooperation between India and the United States has expanded, there have been challenges related to defense technology transfers. India has sought advanced defense technologies and greater access to US defense equipment.
- **Climate Change and Environmental Issues:** Finding a common ground that addresses India's developmental needs while also addressing climate change concerns can be a complex challenge.
- **Visa and Immigration Policies:** Striking a balance between security concerns and facilitating the movement of skilled professionals and students is an ongoing challenge in the relationship.

#### PYQ:

Q. "The USA is facing an existential threat in the form of a China, that is much more challenging than the erstwhile Soviet Union." Explain. (2021)

Q. What introduces friction in the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India's national self-esteem and ambitions. Explain with suitable examples. (2019)

#### Practice Question:

Q. India's relationship with the US has been the most comprehensive association the country has had since its independence. In this context examine the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war in the broader relationship between India and the US.

## 2. INDIA-AUSTRALIA

**Context:** Australia-India relations have been on the upswing lately. As comprehensive strategic partners since June 2020, New Delhi and Canberra have positioned defence cooperation as a key pillar of the bilateral partnership.

## Areas of Cooperation between India and Australia

- Australia and India **upgraded their bilateral relationship from a 'Strategic Partnership' in 2009 to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in 2020.**
- **Economic Front: Trade and economic relations:** India is Australia's **9th largest** trading partner, and Australia is India's **17th largest** trading partner.
  - ▶ **Economic Cooperation Trade Agreement (ECTA):** It is the first free trade agreement signed by India with a developed country in a decade, which entered into force in December 2022.
  - ▶ Both Australia and India are members of the **Quad, Commonwealth, Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), ASEAN Regional Forum, Asia Pacific Partnership on Climate and Clean Development**, and have participated in the **East Asia Summits**.
- **Defence and security:**
  - ▶ Both countries established defence cooperation through the **Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA)**, in 2020 to enhance defence cooperation.
  - ▶ Australia will host the "Malabar" exercises in August 2023, with participation from India, Japan, and the US. India has been invited to join the Talisman Sabre exercises in 2023.
- **People-to-people ties:** As per the **2021 Census**, around **9.76 lakh** people in Australia reported their ancestry as Indian origin, making them the second largest group of overseas-born residents in Australia.

## Challenges:

- **Differences in approach towards Indo-Pacific:** While both have embraced the logic of the Indo-Pacific, important differences will remain. For India, the entire Indian Ocean will take precedence, while for Australia it will be the southwest Indian Ocean, its immediate north, and vast stretches of the South Pacific.
- **Asymmetric priorities:** For Australia, the challenge of China relates to its own politics, society, and economy, as well as the security of its wider region. For India, China is a direct military threat on a hotly contested border.
- **Issues faced by diaspora:** There have been reports of discrimination and racism against people of Indian origin in Australia.
- **Strains in the relations:** There is controversy surrounding the **Adani coal mine project** in Australia, which has led to protests by activists and has put pressure on the bilateral relationship.

## How do they see China?

- Australia-China ties became strained due to several reasons, including Australia banning Huawei from the 5G network, a call for an enquiry into the origins of Covid-19 and slamming China's human rights violations in Xinjiang and Hong Kong.
- Both Australia and India support a rules-based international order and they are seeking to forge regional institutions in the Indo-Pacific which are inclusive and promote further economic integration.

## Suggested measures:

- India and Australia should seek trilateral maritime and naval cooperation with Indonesia.
- Interoperability in the maritime sphere can deepen in terms of **maritime domain awareness, search and rescue operations, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.**

### Practice Question:

**Q. Australia is one of India's most important Indo-Pacific partners, with the relationship characterized by strong people-to-people links. Elaborate.**

## 3. INDIA-CENTRAL ASIA

**Context:** As India cements its position as one of the fastest-growing major economies of the world, its increased engagement with the **Central Asian region** can lead to mutually beneficial gains — both in economic and strategic terms.



**Background:**

- India has a long history of cultural and commercial relations with Central Asia, facilitated by its geographical proximity and the Silk Route.
- However, India-Central Asia relations stagnated in the 20th century, due to the Anglo-Russian rivalry in the “Great Game” and the consequent emergence of nation-states with differing ideologies.
- After the breakup of the Soviet Union and the formation of independent republics in Central Asia, India redesigned its ties with the region.
- However, in recent times, India has adopted a coherent strategy to upscale its relationship with CA and reinvestigate the ancient socioeconomic and traditional ties with the region through new initiatives.

**Why Central Asia assumes significance for India?**

- **Geostrategic location:** Central Asia, forms a part of India’s extended neighbourhood. Its geographical proximity, strategic location, and historical linkages make it an important partner for New Delhi.
- **Energy:** Central Asia is significant for India as it has an abundance of oil and gas deposits.
- **Global power hub:** Strategically, Central Asia is emerging as the next high-stakes competition ground for global powers, hence, it would behoove India to pay closer attention.
- **Significant transportation hub:** Central Asia is a major transportation hub for gas and oil pipelines and multi-modal corridors connecting China, Russia, Europe, and the IOR.

**Recent initiatives:**

- **India-Central Asia Dialogue:** As a part of moving India’s engagement with the region forward, the first India-Central Asia Dialogue was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on 13 January 2019. India is also involved in three connectivity initiatives that involve Central Asia. These initiatives are the **International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**, the Ashgabat Agreement and the development of Chabahar Port in Iran.
- **India’s ‘Connect Central Asia Policy’** covers an entire gamut of a multi-model approach to strengthen politico-economic, security, and cultural ties between the two.

**Suggested measures:**

- **Strategic and economic cooperation:** Sectors like construction industry, sericulture, pharmaceuticals, IT, and tourism offer potential for collaboration.
- **People-to-people tie:** India must increase its developmental and humanitarian aid to the region and promote closer people-to-people ties through education, knowledge transfer, medicine and health, culture, cuisine, and tourism.
- **Multilateralism:** While India has strong relations with the U.S., it needs to apply multilateralism in Central Asia.

**PYQ:**

**Q. A number of outside powers have entrenched themselves in Central Asia, which is a zone of interest to India. Discuss the implications, in this context, of India’s joining the Ashgabat Agreement. (2018)**

**Practice Question:**

**Q. India and Central Asia have had longstanding cultural, political, and economic relations that have over time metamorphosed into a transformational partnership. Elaborate.**

**4. CHINA-RUSSIA**

**Context:** China and Russia have increased their cooperation on economic, security, and defense issues in the backdrop of the **Russia-Ukraine War**.

**Background:**

- In the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine War, China has expanded trade links with Russia and amplified Russian propaganda.

- Chinese authorities have defended Russia's actions and accused NATO and the West of fomenting war in Ukraine.

### Elements of Russia-China Cooperation:

- Economic Cooperation:** The two countries are also jointly involved in infrastructure projects, such as the Belt and Road Initiative and the **Eurasian Economic Union**, which aim to enhance connectivity and economic integration across the Eurasian region.
- Military and Defense Cooperation:** Military cooperation between the two countries is seen as a counterbalance to perceived U.S. dominance and aims to enhance their respective defense capabilities.
- Strategic Alignment:** China and Russia share strategic interests in challenging what they perceive as U.S. hegemony and promoting a **multipolar world order**. They have developed a common approach to international affairs, advocating for a greater role for emerging powers and calling for reforms in global governance institutions.

### Impacts on India:

- Geopolitical Challenges:** It creates a strategic alignment between two major powers that may have different interests or positions on issues relevant to India. This alignment can impact regional dynamics and potentially limit India's maneuverability in areas such as border disputes, regional conflicts, or multilateral forums.
- Regional Balance of Power:** The Russia-China partnership strengthens the overall balance of power in the region. The combined military capabilities and political influence of Russia and China can influence the regional security environment, potentially affecting India's security interests.
- Economic Competition:** India may face challenges in accessing Russian markets or attracting Russian investments due to Russia's closer economic ties with China.
- Defense Implications:** Russia is a longstanding defense partner of India, supplying significant military equipment. However, if Russia prioritizes its defense exports to China or engages in joint military exercises or technology transfers with China, it may impact India's access to advanced defense technologies and affect defense cooperation between India and Russia.

#### PYQ:

**Q. Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. What importance does it hold for India? (2021)**

#### Practice Question:

**Q. Considering the dominance of Russia and China in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), can the platform become a tool for enhancing India's profile in the region? Give arguments to support your answer.**

## 5. RUSSIA-US

**Context:** Due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine War, the relations between Russia and the US have taken a further downward trend with some diplomatic implications for India.

### Background:

- The relationship between Russia and the United States is influenced by a wide range of factors, including domestic politics, national interests, regional dynamics, and global power dynamics.
- The trajectory of their relationship can be unpredictable and subject to significant shifts based on changing circumstances and policy decisions.

### Trends in the US-Russia Relations:

- Strained Relations:** The relationship between Russia and the United States became increasingly strained in the 2000s and 2010s. Issues such as NATO expansion, missile defense, human rights concerns, and disagreements over regional conflicts like the wars in Georgia and Ukraine contributed to deteriorating relations.

- **Ukraine Crisis and Sanctions:** The Ukraine crisis in 2014, sparked by Russia's annexation of Crimea, led to a sharp deterioration in Russia-US relations. The United States, along with the European Union, imposed economic sanctions on Russia in response to its actions in Ukraine.
- **Election Interference and Cybersecurity:** Russia's alleged interference in the 2016 US presidential election has further strained relations between the two countries. The United States has accused Russia of cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, and meddling in its democratic processes.
- **Arms Control and Strategic Stability:** The United States and Russia have been engaged in arms control efforts for decades. However, recent challenges, including the expiration of the **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF)** Treaty in 2019 and the uncertain future of the New START treaty, have raised concerns about the erosion of strategic stability between the two countries.
- **Regional Conflicts:** Russia and the United States have found themselves on opposite sides of various regional conflicts, including the **Syrian civil war**. Their differing positions on issues like the Assad regime's future, support for opposing factions, and the role of Iran in the region have contributed to disagreements and heightened tensions.

### Impacts on India:

- **Regional Dynamics:** The strained Russia-US relations can impact regional dynamics in areas of India's interest, such as Central Asia, Afghanistan, and the Middle East.
- **Economic Implications:** Russia and the United States are both important economic partners for India. Trade and investment relations with these countries could be indirectly impacted by their strained relations.
- **Defense Cooperation:** Russia has been a longstanding defense partner of India, supplying a significant portion of India's military equipment. The strained relations between Russia and the United States, particularly regarding defense matters, could affect India's defense procurement and technology access.

### Practice Question:

**Q. The dynamic between the US and Russia has long been the principal factor shaping independent India's geopolitics. Examine the implication of increased conflict between the two countries on India since the war in Ukraine.**

## 6. INDIA-AFRICA

**Context:** India and Africa share a close and historical relationship. In contemporary times, the relationship has acquired a renewed push due to greater convergence in economic, defense, and maritime security interests.

### The vitality of Africa for India

- **Trade and investment opportunities:** Africa is an important investment destination for Indian businesses because of the high growth potential of countries like Nigeria. India's bilateral trade with Africa touched \$90 billion in 2021-22.
- **Energy security:** Africa is rich in natural resources including oil and gas, making it vital for the energy security of India which is the third largest energy consumer globally and highly dependent on imports.
- **Strategic partnership, defense, and security:** Over the last few years, India has consistently cultivated closer ties with African countries on the issues such as counterterrorism, maritime security, prevention of extremism etc.
- **South-South cooperation:** Due to the developing nature of India and most of the African countries, there is an immense potential to enhance engagement in global foras for achievements of shared interests and raising the collective voice.
- **Sustainable development:** India has taken a leadership role in the global efforts towards sustainable development, climate change, and energy transition. Cooperation with Africa is key to achieving these objectives because much of the future economic growth will come from the continent.
- **Soft power projection:** Africa has a central role in India's soft power projection beyond its borders through development partnerships, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), tourism, etc.

### Role of Indian diaspora in promoting India-Africa relations:

- **Investment:** Many Indian diaspora members are entrepreneurs and investors who have helped create employment in African countries especially South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania etc. They also act as a bridge between Indian and African businesses.
- **Cultural exchange:** Indian diaspora plays an essential role in cultural exchange between India and African countries. Indian community organizes festivals to showcase its culture and traditions further strengthening the bond between countries.
- **Lobbying:** Indian diaspora has been involved in political advocacy, and lobbying for greater cooperation between India and African countries. They have with the governments to promote policies that support collective interests.

### Steps taken by India

- **India-Africa Defense Dialogue:** It focuses on new areas of convergence for defense engagements, including capacity building, training, cyber security, maritime security, and counter-terrorism paving the way for further strengthening of India-Africa defense relations.
- **India-Africa Forum Summit:** The forum brings together leaders from India and Africa to discuss the issue of mutual interests and explore opportunities for further cooperation.
- **Development assistance:** India has been an active partner of Africa in its development. It has provided grants, **Line of Credit (LoCs)** loans, investments in capacity-building programs, infrastructure development projects, etc. As of 2021, India has extended LoCs worth \$11bn to African countries. This has helped India acquire the goodwill of the African people.

### PYQ:

Q. "If the last few decades were of Asia's growth story, the next few are expected to be of Africa's." In light of this statement, examine India's influence in Africa in recent years. (2021)

### Practice Question:

Q. What makes Africa significant for India's economic and strategic interests in contemporary times? Discuss the steps taken by India in this regard in the last few years.

## 7. INDIA'S PRESIDENCY OF G20:

**Context:** India assumed the presidency of the G20 forum. "India's G20 Presidency will work to promote this universal sense of one-ness. Hence our theme - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'" – Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

### Background:

- The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union (EU). Its major focus areas are related to international financial stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development among others.
- With its collective economic heft and greater representation, G20 has become more relevant than earlier groupings like G7.
- Together, the G20 countries account for almost two-thirds of the global population, **75% of global trade**, and **85% of the world's GDP**.

### G20 Presidency as an opportunity for India:

- **Leadership role in the pressing global challenges:** India can play the leadership role by setting the agenda in the pressing challenges like food and energy insecurity, climate change, climate finance, and equitable and sustainable growth.
- **Promoting voice of the Global South:** India as an emerging economy is actively cooperating with the countries of Global South to further the collective interests; Presidency of G20 gives additional platform to further the cooperation.

**Advantage of G20 as a world forum:**

- **Better representation of global economic interests:** The Group represents approximately 85% of the global GDP and two-thirds of the world's population, thus making it a highly representative forum for the coordination of economic relations in world affairs.
  - **More Inclusive:** The group provides a collective platform for developed and emerging economies to address global economic challenges in a more inclusive and consensus-oriented.
  - **Crucial role in coordinating policy responses:** especially after the 2008 global financial crisis the relevance of the grouping has increased to coordinate policy responses in volatile situations.
  - **Greater cooperation:** Other than the members, G20 also invites other countries, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations to attend the summits thus increasing cooperation.
- **Strengthen its role in the world economic order:** Through the presidency, India has taken a leadership role in several areas, such as promoting inclusive growth, increasing investment in infrastructure, and strengthening financial regulation.
  - **People-centric agenda to address global challenges:** With the theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,' India is steering an ambitious, people-centric agenda to address global challenges and facilitate sustainable economic development.
  - **Interest of developing countries:** India can use the presidency to advocate for developing countries' interests and promote economic cooperation and integration between developed and developing countries.

**India's G20 Priorities:**

- **Green Development, Climate Finance & LiFE**
  - ▶ India's focus on climate change, with a particular emphasis on climate finance and technology, as well as ensuring just energy transitions for developing countries.
  - ▶ Introduction of the LiFE movement, which promotes environmentally-conscious practices and is based on India's sustainable traditions.
- **Accelerated, Inclusive & Resilient Growth**
  - ▶ Focus on areas that have the potential to bring structural transformation, including supporting small and medium-sized enterprises in global trade, promoting labour rights and welfare, addressing the global skills gap, and building inclusive agricultural value chains and food systems.
- **Accelerating Progress on SDGs**
  - ▶ Recommitment to achieving the targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a particular focus on addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Technological Transformation & Digital Public Infrastructure**
  - ▶ Promotion of a human-centric approach to technology and increased knowledge-sharing in areas such as digital public infrastructure, financial inclusion, and tech-enabled development in sectors such as agriculture and education.
- **Multilateral Institutions for the 21st century**
  - ▶ Efforts to reform multilateralism and create a more accountable, inclusive, and representative international system that is fit for addressing 21st century challenges.
- **Women-led Development**
  - ▶ Emphasis on inclusive growth and development, with a focus on women empowerment and representation in order to boost socio-economic development and the achievement of SDGs.

**Practice Question:**

**Q. Analyze the potential role of G20's presidency for India to play a leadership role in setting the agenda of global financial stability, climate mitigation and adaptation, and sustainable development.**



## 8. INDO-PACIFIC REGION

**Context:** Due to the presence of many powers like the US, China, India, etc. the Indo-Pacific region has gained salience in the diplomatic and strategic aspects.

### Background:

- The term “Indo-Pacific” refers to the maritime space stretching from the Indian Ocean, across the littorals of East Asia to the western Pacific Ocean.
- Since 2011, the term “Indo-Pacific” is being used increasingly in the global strategic/ geopolitical discourse. As a framework, the Indo-Pacific seeks to create a connected multipolar region that must be governed by commonly agreed international norms, rules and practices.

### Significance of Indo-Pacific for India:

- **Economic Significance:** The Indo-Pacific region is home to some of the world’s fastest-growing economies, major trade routes, and important shipping lanes. It plays a crucial role in global trade, energy flows, and maritime commerce.
- **Strategic Importance:** The Indo-Pacific region holds significant strategic importance due to its maritime domain, which provides access to important sea lines of communication (SLOCs) and critical chokepoints. The region is home to major military powers, including the United States, China, India, Japan, and Australia, who have geopolitical interests in the area.
- **Connectivity and Infrastructure Development:** The region has seen increasing focus on connectivity and infrastructure development initiatives, such as **China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** and **India’s Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)**. These initiatives aim to enhance connectivity, trade, and development in the region while also raising questions about competition, debt sustainability, and geopolitical influence.
- **Rules-based Order and Multilateralism:** Many countries in the Indo-Pacific region advocate for a rules-based international order, respect for international law, freedom of navigation, and peaceful resolution of disputes. They emphasize the importance of multilateralism and regional cooperation to address common challenges and maintain stability.

### Challenges for India in the region:

- **China’s Rise:** India is navigating China’s increasing influence in the Indo-Pacific region, both economically and militarily. China’s assertive behavior in the South China Sea, its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and its growing military capabilities pose challenges for India’s regional aspirations and security interests.
- **Maritime Security:** As a key player in the region, India faces maritime security challenges, including piracy, terrorism, smuggling, and illegal fishing. It needs to protect its maritime interests, secure its sea lanes of communication, and counter potential security threats in the Indian Ocean region.
- **Geopolitical Competition:** The Indo-Pacific region is witnessing increasing geopolitical competition, particularly between India and China. The border disputes between the two countries, especially along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), present a significant challenge to India’s security and influence in the region.
- **Balancing Act:** India aims to maintain strategic autonomy and a balanced approach in the Indo-Pacific region. It faces the challenge of managing its relationships with major powers, including the United States, China, Japan, and Russia, while safeguarding its national interests and avoiding entanglements in geopolitical rivalries.

### Practice Question:

**Q. The Indo-Pacific has emerged as an opportunity to expand and support India’s strategic and economic profile. In the line of the statement analyze the role of the recently launched Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.**

## 9. SOUTH CHINA SEA

**Context:** South China Sea is one of the most fiercely contested regions globally with the presence of many regional and local powers like the US, China, etc. Strategic geographical location, lack of demarcation coupled with China's hegemony, and vast energy resources are some of the reasons for increasing contentions among the countries.

### Background: Reasons for disputes

- **China's sweeping claims of sovereignty over the sea:** China has claimed the whole region through its nine-dash line which has created conflicts with competing claimants Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam.
- **Strategic importance:** Some of the world's most important shipping lanes pass through the South China Sea. The main route to and from Pacific and Indian Ocean ports is through the Strait of Malacca and the South China Sea.
- **Energy resources:** the South China Sea is an area that has abundant untapped resources, especially natural gases and oil attracting the interest of the countries.

### Major disputes in the region:

- **Scarborough Shoal:** This region lies off the coast Philippines and the claims by China over the whole South China Sea for conflict between the Philippines and China.
- **Paracel and Spratly Islands:** China and Vietnam have competing claims over the Paracel and Spratly Islands

### India's interests:

- **Energy security:** As a rapidly growing economy and third largest energy consumer globally, India is increasing collaboration with littoral countries like Vietnam to tap the vast energy resources in the region.
- **Trade:** Significant amount of India's trade passes through the South China Sea. Hence, ensuring uninterrupted sea lines of communication is in India's interest.
- **Defense and strategic cooperation:** India has developed strategic partnerships with Vietnam, Japan, South Korea, the US, etc. to maintain peace and stability in the region.

### India's views in the region:

- **Rules-based international order:** India has expressed concern over the militarization of the South China Sea and the increased assertiveness of China in the region.
- **Freedom and navigation and overflight:** India has emphasized the need for a rule-based international order based on freedom of navigation and overflight which is critical for maintaining peace and stability in the region.
- **Peaceful resolution of disputes:** India supports peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law.

### PYQ:

**Q. With respect to the South China Sea, maritime territorial disputes and rising tension affirm the need for safeguarding maritime security to ensure freedom of navigation and over flight throughout the region. In this context, discuss the bilateral issues between India and China. (2014)**

### Practice Question:

**Q. The South China Sea remains a hotspot of regional as well as international conflicts that may have an adverse impact for India's interests in the region. Discuss.**

## 10. REFORMS IN THE UNITED NATIONS

**Context:** During the UNSC membership, India outlined NORMS for the structural reforms of the UN and its bodies.

**Background:**

- The United Nations was established in the aftermath of the World War II to increase the cooperation between the nations and to prevent wars. More than seven decades later, it has been somewhat successful in reducing the threats of conflicts, disarmament, hunger, poverty etc. through diplomacy and development cooperation.
- **Criticism:** At the same time, the organization is criticized for its lack of effectiveness and its inability to reform. The criticism is based on the arguments that the UN still represents the post-war world order which is far from the current multipolar geopolitical order represented by the rise of countries like India.

**Outdated structures of the UN:**

- **Lack of power to the General Assembly:** UNGA can only make non-binding recommendations which is a reason for the failure of the UN to tackle important issues like conflicts, global terrorism, climate change etc.
- **Veto power:** The P5 nations namely the US, the UK, Russia, China, and France continue to hold the veto power in the UN Security Council which is one of the most important multilateral decision-making bodies. Deep polarization among these countries impact positive outcomes.
- **Lack of adequate representation:** There is no representation from Latin America, Africa or South Asia in the UNSC which results in suppression of the voice of developing countries.

**NORMS:**

- NORMS stands for **New Orientation for Reformed Multilateralism**.
- It was the guiding principle for India's two-year term as a non-permanent member of the UNSC which ended in December 2022.

**Potential impact:**

- **Building of alliances for the greater good:** The NORMS has opened up possibilities for increased cooperation through dialogue with like-minded countries looking for an overhaul of the structure. India's cooperation with the G4 countries can get an additional push.
- **Highlighting the issues that go beyond the interests of the P-5 nations:** The principle can help evolve consensus on more pressing issues like sustainable development, equitable economic growth for all, etc.
- **Push for reformed multilateralism:** NORMS envisages reform in all three pillars of the current multilateral architecture (peace and security, development, and human rights), with the UN at its center. Some progress can be made in that regard.

**PYQ:**

**Q. Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. (2015)**

**Practice Question:**

**Q. United Nations is facing a crisis of confidence to deal with today's reality and address contemporary challenges. In this light outline the areas of reforms needed to strengthen the role of the global multilateral body.**

**11. NATO**

**Context:** Since the start of the Russia-Ukraine war in February 2021, NATO is trying to further expand its borders. Recently Finland became its latest member.

**Background:**

- NATO, which stands for the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization**, is a political and military alliance comprising 30 member countries from North America and Europe.
- NATO is a collective security system, its independent member states agree to defend each other against attacks by third parties.



**Objectives of NATO:**

- **Collective Defense:** It is founded on the principle of collective defense, as enshrined in Article 5 of the NATO treaty, which states that an attack against one member is considered an attack against all.
- **Security Cooperation:** It promotes regular consultations, military exercises, intelligence sharing, and joint defense planning. These activities aim to enhance interoperability, strengthen the defense capabilities of member countries, and ensure a coordinated response to security challenges.
- **Crisis Management:** NATO's crisis management activities focus on maintaining stability, supporting peace processes, and promoting the rule of law in conflict-affected areas.
- **Transatlantic Bond:** NATO serves as a pillar of the transatlantic relationship between North America and Europe. The alliance deepens political, military, and economic ties between these two regions.

**Challenges for NATO:**

- **Evolving Security Threats:** NATO must continuously adapt to address evolving security threats, including terrorism, cyber-attacks, hybrid warfare, and disinformation campaigns.
- **Relations with Russia:** NATO's relationship with Russia remains complex and strained. Russia's assertive actions, such as its annexation of Crimea and destabilization efforts in Eastern Europe, pose challenges to NATO's collective defense. Balancing deterrence measures with the need for dialogue and risk reduction is an ongoing challenge.
- **Geopolitical Shifts and Global Power Dynamics:** Geopolitical shifts, including the rise of new global powers and changing dynamics in regions such as the Indo-Pacific, present challenges for NATO's strategic focus. Adapting to these shifts and maintaining a balance between Euro-Atlantic security and global security interests is a challenge for the alliance.

**Practice Question:**

**Q. Critically analyze the security scenarios created by the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) from the end of the Cold War to the Russia-Ukraine War.**

**12. G7**

**Context:** The Presidency of the Group of Seven has passed to Japan at a time when the war in Ukraine has injected new relevance into the forum while also highlighting the need for closer partnership with the **Global South**.

**Background:**

- The Group of Seven (G7) is an international forum consisting of seven of the world's largest advanced economies: **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.**

**The G7 in a Changing World**

- The origins of today's G7 go back a half century.
- In 1973, the finance ministers of the United States, Britain, France, and West Germany met to confer on measures to deal with the oil crisis and its economic impact. With the addition of Japan the following autumn, the forum became known as the Group of Five major industrial democracies.
- In 1975, the group expanded to include Italy. The forum became the G7 in 1976, when Canada joined.
- The world has changed dramatically in the half century since the forum's establishment, transformed by such events as the collapse of the Soviet Union, the September 11 terrorist attacks, and the financial crisis of 2008, along with the rise of China and the other emerging economies.
- In 2008, the Group of 20 held the first of its summits, and US President Barack Obama subsequently designated it the "premier forum for international economic cooperation," leading some to question the relevance of the G7.
- But perspectives have changed in the light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's refusal to rule out force in achieving the reunification of Taiwan.

- In the G20 and other forums where Moscow and Beijing have a voice (including the UN Security Council and the World Trade Organization), it has become harder than ever to reach an agreement on key issues. As a consequence, the G7 has reemerged as an important framework for deliberation and cooperation among like-minded governments.

### Significance of G7:

- **Economic powerhouses:** The G7 countries represent some of the largest economies in the world, accounting for a significant share of global GDP and international trade. They possess advanced industrial sectors, technological capabilities, and financial resources.
- **Aid and Development:** The G7 countries discuss and coordinate their efforts to address global poverty, health crises, and other development challenges, often setting priorities and commitments for aid and development initiatives.
- **Global Governance:** The member countries have significant influence in international organizations such as the United Nations, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and World Trade Organization (WTO). They use the G7 forum to coordinate their positions on global issues and promote their common interests.

### Importance of G7 for India:

- **Rules-based International Order:** The G7 countries uphold the principles of democracy, human rights, rule of law, and multilateralism. India shares these values and seeks to promote a rules-based international order.
- **Technology and innovation:** The G7 countries are at the forefront of technological advancements and innovation. Engaging with the G7 provides India with opportunities to collaborate on emerging technologies, research and development, digital governance, and cybersecurity.
- **Climate change and clean energy:** As India is one of the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases and has significant energy needs, collaborating with G7 countries on climate change mitigation, renewable energy technologies, and sustainable development is crucial for India's environmental goals and energy security.

### Practice Question:

**Q. With the global geopolitical and economic epicenter shifting to the Indo-Pacific, European countries are keen to benefit from the economic opportunities that the region offers. In this context analyze the importance of cooperation between India and the G-7 nations.**

## 13. QUAD

**Context:** The Quad has gained significant importance for India for the Indian Ocean and wider Indo-Pacific.

### Background:

- The Quad, also known as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, is a strategic partnership between four countries: **India, the United States, Japan, and Australia.**
- The dialogue was initiated in 2007 by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, with the support of Australian Prime Minister John Howard, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney.

### Significance of Quad for India:

- **Regional Security:** India, being a major regional power, has security interests in the Indian Ocean and the wider Indo-Pacific. The Quad provides a framework for cooperation among like-minded countries to maintain peace, stability, and freedom of navigation in the region.
- **Counterbalance to China:** China's increasing assertiveness in the region has raised concerns for many countries, including India. India sees the Quad as a strategic grouping that can help ensure a balance of power in the region, which is crucial for its own security interests.
- **Economic Cooperation:** India, being an emerging economic power, benefits from increased trade, investment, and technology exchanges facilitated by the Quad. It opens up opportunities for India to

diversify its trade and investment partners and enhance its economic engagement with other countries in the Indo-Pacific.

- **Disaster Response and Humanitarian Assistance:** The Quad partners have demonstrated their commitment to cooperation in disaster response and humanitarian assistance.
- **Technological Collaboration:** The Quad also emphasizes technological collaboration in areas such as 5G, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies.

### Challenges in front of Quad:

- **China's Response:** China views the Quad as a potential threat to its interests and has expressed concerns about its military implications and intentions. China may employ diplomatic, economic, and military means to undermine the Quad's unity and effectiveness, posing a challenge to the group's objectives.
- **Differing Priorities and Expectations:** Balancing the interests of all four members can be challenging, as each country may have different regional priorities, levels of commitment, and approaches to engagement.
- **Geostrategic Constraints:** The Quad faces certain geographical and logistical constraints in the Indo-Pacific region. It covers a vast area, and each member country has its own unique geographical challenges, ranging from the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea and the Pacific.

#### PYQ:

Q. 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)' is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times – Discuss. (2020)

#### Practice Question:

Q. In a period of extreme strategic uncertainty, Quad can help India establish itself as one of the most important pillars of global peace and security. Elaborate.

## 14. BRICS

**Context:** BRICS, which now consists of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, is considering expanding its membership, and a growing number of countries have expressed interest in joining.

### Background:

- BRICS is an acronym for **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**. Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill coined the term BRIC (without South Africa) in 2001, claiming that by 2050 the four BRIC economies would come to dominate the global economy.
- South Africa was added to the list in 2010.
- BRICS accounts for 41% of the world's population, 30% of the land area, 24% of global GDP, and 16% of international trade.

### Significance of BRICS:

- **Political Dialogue:** Regular summits and ministerial meetings allow leaders to discuss issues of common concern, share perspectives, and coordinate positions on regional and global matters.
- **Development Financing:** BRICS has established institutions such as the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) to provide development financing and financial stability among member countries.
- **Geopolitical Influence:** The BRICS countries collectively represent a significant portion of the world's population, landmass, and natural resources. By coming together, they seek to strengthen their geopolitical influence and promote multi-polarity in the international system.
- **South-South Cooperation:** BRICS embodies the principles of South-South cooperation, emphasizing collaboration among developing countries. BRICS serves as a platform for enhancing trade, investment, and technological exchanges among emerging economies, fostering inclusive and sustainable development.

### Challenges for BRICS:

- **Economic Disparities:** BRICS countries vary in terms of economic size, development levels, and growth rates. Managing the economic disparities among member countries can be challenging. Differences in economic structures, trade imbalances, and unequal distribution of benefits from cooperation may hinder the smooth functioning of BRICS.
- **Geopolitical Differences:** BRICS member countries have different stances on regional and global issues, which can make consensus-building and joint decision-making challenging. Managing geopolitical differences and finding common ground on critical issues can be a complex task for BRICS.
- **Institutional Development:** BRICS has established institutions such as the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA). Ensuring effective coordination and governance within the BRICS framework remains a challenge.

#### PYQ:

Q. India has recently signed to become a founding member of the New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the strategic significance of these two Banks for India. (2014)

#### Practice Question:

Q. BRICS has the potential to increase emerging economies' say in institutions of global governance but is fraught with internal conflicts and contradictions limiting its potential. Elaborate.



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# INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY, INDIAN DIASPORA

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## 1. INDIAN DIASPORA

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**Context:** There has been a rise in 'diaspora diplomacy' in the last few years as a tool for Indian foreign policy.

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### Background:

- Diaspora diplomacy is the practice of influence and negotiations between nations by using the country's diaspora to pursue the advancement of the home country.

#### Indian Diaspora: Key facts

- According to **Global Migration Report 2020**, India continues to be the largest country of origin of international migrants with a 17.5 million-strong diaspora across the world.
- 8 million people of Indian origin live in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.
- Kerala is home to more than two million Indian immigrants in the Gulf.
- National Equality Panel report in 2012 found that British Indian households are second wealthiest among major British ethnic groups.

### Significance of Indian Diaspora:

- **Economic Contributions:** The Indian diaspora often excels in diverse fields such as information technology, finance, healthcare, entrepreneurship, and academia. Their skills, expertise, and investments contribute to job creation, innovation, and economic development in both India and their adopted countries.
- **Remittances:** The Indian diaspora sends billions of dollars back home, which helps in improving the standard of living, supporting families, and boosting the economy. Remittances contribute to foreign exchange reserves, reduce poverty, and support various sectors such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure.
- **Cultural Exchange and Soft Power:** People of Indian origin promote Indian culture, traditions, cuisine, and languages in their adopted countries, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of Indian heritage.
- **Diplomatic Influence:** They advocate for India's interests, promote bilateral relations, and contribute to policy discussions and decision-making processes.

### Challenges:

- **Identity and Integration:** Maintaining a sense of cultural identity while adapting to the cultural norms and practices of the host country can be a challenge for the diaspora.
- **Discrimination and Racism:** Like any immigrant community, the Indian diaspora may encounter discrimination, racism, or xenophobia in their host countries. They may face stereotypes, prejudice, or bias based on their ethnicity, religion, or national origin.
- **Legal and Immigration Issues:** The Indian diaspora may face legal and immigration-related challenges, including obtaining residency permits, work visas, or citizenship in their host countries.



- **Cultural Adjustment:** Adjusting to a new culture, language, and social norms can be challenging for the diaspora. Adapting to new social structures, etiquette, and ways of life requires time, effort, and flexibility.

**PYQ:**

Q. 'Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries. Comment with examples. (2020)

**Practice Question:**

Q. What are the objectives of 'diaspora diplomacy'? Discuss the role that the Indian diaspora plays in projecting India's strength abroad.

## 2. 23. INDIA'S SOFT POWER

**Context:** India, since independence has utilized its soft power with the spirit of '**Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam**' (The whole world is family) to further the interests of itself and the global community.

**Background:**

- Soft power is the ability to attract and co-opt **rather than coerce** which forms the basis of hard power. In the post-Cold War era, soft power has emerged as a crucial component of the foreign policy of major countries to advance their national interests.

**Elements of India's soft power:**

- **Democratic values:** India has been the 'mother of democracy' and its liberal, plural democracy acts as a model for democratic countries around the world.
- **Yoga, meditation:** Yoga has been 'India's gift to the world' as it has attracted millions of practitioners around the world. The recognition of June 21 as World Yoga Day by the UN has furthered the enthusiasm and goodwill about India. Yoga along with **Ayurveda, meditation** attracts millions of people for **wellness tourism**.
- **Rich culture and tradition:** Numerous **World Heritage Sites**, rich cuisine, art forms, architecture, etc. offer **an** unmatched experience to international travellers enhancing 'Brand India.'
- **Development partnerships:** India has become a pivotal development partner through its support to developing countries through Lines of Credit (LOCs) grants and loans, and capacity building. Ex: Recently, India extended financial help to **Sri Lanka** during its worst economic crisis. In **Bangladesh**, It has taken up various several connectivity projects.
- **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR):** India has been the first responder during the crisis in the neighborhood. In extended support to the **Maldives** during its water crisis in 2014. In the recent earthquakes in **Turkey**, India's quick support was much appreciated.
- **Strong Indian diaspora:** India has **20mn strong diaspora** which acts as a bridge between India and the resident countries. It plays an important role in promoting India's interests and culture. For example, **Indian Americans** play an important role in improving Indo-US relations by lobbying American politicians and offering a positive image of India to the American public as well.
- **Cinema, sports, etc:** Bollywood has been a major source of attraction in the international realm, it has been popular in USSR in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In recent decades it has become popular in the US, South America as well. The academy's win of '**naatu naatu**' song further breaks the barriers. '**Cricket diplomacy**' has been visible in India's relations with **Commonwealth** nations.

**PYQ:**

Q. "The long sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised nations has disappeared on account of its newfound role in the emerging global order.' Elaborate (2019)

**Practice Question:**

Q. Soft power is one of the most significant pillars of India's foreign policy since independence. Explain different elements that comprise India's soft power.

### 3. STRATEGIC AUTONOMY

**Context:** India has maintained strategic autonomy against the backdrop of increased pressure from the West to limit its cooperation with Russia due to the ongoing war in Ukraine.

**Background:**

- Strategic autonomy denotes the ability of a state to pursue its national interests and adopt its preferred foreign policy without being constrained in any manner by other states.
- Example, India taking an independent approach in the Russia-Ukraine war based on India's national interests.

**Need for strategic autonomy**

- **Geostrategic balancing, need for connectivity:** India maintaining close relations with Iran despite its bigger push in the relations with Saudi Arabia, Israel.
- **Need for multi-alignment:** During ongoing the Ukraine crisis, India refused to take a side because of its national interests demand close cooperation with countries on both sides.
- **Securing core interests like defense, and energy:** India despite getting closer to the US has good relations with Russia because of defense cooperation with ex S400 missile system.
- **Diverse Partnerships:** It seeks to foster strategic partnerships with both traditional and non-traditional allies, including major powers, neighboring countries, and regional organizations, and emerging economies. This diversification of partnerships helps India safeguard its national interests and expand its diplomatic options.
- **Multi-Polarity:** India believes in a rules-based international system that promotes a level playing field, inclusivity, and the peaceful resolution of disputes. India's pursuit of strategic autonomy is closely linked to its vision of a multipolar global order.
- **Independent Decision Making:** India's decisions are guided by its own assessment of national interests, rather than being dictated by external pressures

**Challenges for India:**

- **Geostrategic Constraints:** India is located in a region that is geopolitically complex and volatile. It shares borders with multiple countries and faces security challenges such as cross-border terrorism, territorial disputes, and regional power rivalries.
- **Economic Interdependence:** Economic ties and trade relationships may influence foreign policy decisions, as India's interests in maintaining economic growth and stability can be tied to the interests of other nations.
- **Dependence on External Sources:** Despite efforts to enhance indigenous capabilities, India remains dependent on external sources for defense equipment, technology, and energy resources.
- **Balancing Competing Interests:** As major powers compete for influence in the region, India must navigate its relationships with these powers while safeguarding its own national interests. Striking a balance between different partnerships and alliances can be challenging and requires astute diplomacy.

**Practice Question:**

Q. What is strategic autonomy? How is it different than the non-alignment policy followed by India during the Cold War?

### 4. INDIAN ANTARCTIC ACT, 2022

**Context:** India recently enacted the Indian Antarctic Act, 2022, which is in pursuant to India's accession to the **Antarctic Treaty, Madrid Protocol** to the Antarctic Treaty, and to the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

**Background:**

- India has taken a leading role in with respect to Antarctica's scientific research and ecology. It currently

operates two research stations in Antarctica named **Maitri** and **Bharati** and has also launched several annual scientific expeditions to Antarctica.

- The Act aims at having India's own national measures for protecting the Antarctic environment as also the dependent and associated ecosystem thus, elevating India's position on Antarctica's scientific research and ecology.

### Indian Antarctic Act, 2022: Major provisions

- **Indian Antarctic Authority (IAA):** It will provide a stable, transparent, and accountable process for Antarctic research and expeditions and ensure the protection and preservation of the Antarctic environment.
- **Penal provisions:** The Act lays out penal provision for crimes on the continent by Indian citizens, foreign citizens who are a part of Indian expeditions, or are in the precincts of Indian research stations.
- **Ban on private tours:** Private tours and expeditions to Antarctica would be prohibited without a permit or the written authorization by a Member country of the **Antarctic Treaty** of 1963.
- **Creation of Antarctic fund:** The fund will be used for protecting the Antarctic environment.

### Significance in elevating India's position:

- **Increased credibility of India:** The Act will help in increased international visibility, credibility of India in Polar governance leading to international collaboration and cooperation in scientific and logistics fields.
- **Protection of fragile Antarctic ecosystem:** The Act is consistent with the Antarctic Treaty System which will go long to protect the fragile ecosystem of Antarctica with the existence of a regulatory framework.
- **Promotion of international scientific cooperation:** A rule based system with India as an important player will foster the spirit of cooperation among the countries present in Antarctica enhancing the status of the country globally.

#### Practice Question:

**Q. Mentioning the provisions of Indian Antarctic Act, 2022, explain how this legislation helps in protecting the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystem.**

## 5. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

**Context:** India has had a long history of South-South Cooperation which reflects in its essential role in popularizing NAM and an anti-colonialism stand that India took after its independence.

- India has strong relations with developed and developing countries which encompass economic, security, technological, space, and cultural aspects. This helps India achieve its foreign policy objectives efficiently and results in a mutually beneficial partnership.

### Background:

- South-South Cooperation is a broad framework for collaboration and exchange among countries of the Global South in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, and technical domains.
- Through this, developing countries share knowledge, skills, expertise, and resources to meet their development goals through concerted efforts.

#### Elements of South-South Cooperation

- Mutual Benefit
- Non-conditionality
- Sharing of Resources
- Horizontal Collaboration
- Capacity Building
- Policy Dialogue



### Importance of South-South Cooperation for India

- **Development partnerships:** India has supported developing peers with Lines of Credit, loans for healthcare, infrastructure development, etc.
- **Cooperation at multilateral bodies:** India has voiced concern of the emerging economies at the multilateral groupings like IMF, WTO, the UN.
- **Reform of the multilateral structure:** India believes that the current multilateral world order does not represent the realities of changed world order and along with countries of the Global South it has advocated for reform.
- **Economic Growth:** Cooperation with developing countries is crucial for India to achieve accelerated growth through investment, the flow of labor, etc.
- **Technological cooperation and innovation:** Partnership can help India access new technologies in the fields of security, infrastructure, and agriculture, etc.
- **Flow of trade:** Increased trade results in employment and income generation. Hence, promoting economic growth.
- **Cooperation in global issues:** World is faced with pressing challenges like terrorism, global warming, climate change, climate finance, etc. and to deal with them efficiently cooperation is necessary.

#### Practice Question:

**Q. What is South-South Cooperation? How does it offer solutions in solidarity for global challenges faced by developing countries?**

## 6. CHANGING WORLD ORDER

**Context:** The world order is not static and has experienced significant changes throughout history. In the last few decades, there is a visible change in the global world order.

### Background: Manifestation of changing world order

- **Emerging new Cold-War:** This is due to the emergence of a New Cold War between the US & China, which amounts to a struggle for a new distribution of power—political, economic, and military. Moreover, the differences between the US, China, and Russia have become intractable.
- **Decline of US-led order:** The prominent feature of the current world order is the US's retrenchment from global affairs. This can be reflected by the withdrawal of the US the Paris Climate deal, JCPOA, etc.
- **Shifting balance of power to Asia:** With the rise of China and India the economic pivot has shifted to Asia.
- **Declining Role of UN:** Due to internal conflicts among the major powers, the US has largely failed to address the challenges, giving rise to mini-lateralism.

### Factors behind changing world order

- **Shifting Power Dynamics:** The rise of new powers, particularly China, and the relative decline of Western dominance, primarily the United States, have led to a rebalancing of power in the international system. Emerging economies such as India, Brazil, and Russia also play influential roles, contributing to a more multipolar world.
- **Technological Advancements:** Rapid advancements in technology, particularly in areas such as information technology, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology, are reshaping the global landscape.
- **Globalization and Interconnectedness:** Increasing interconnectedness through trade, finance, and communication has led to a highly globalized world. This interconnectedness has created interdependencies among states and facilitated the flow of information.
- **Changing Norms and Values:** There is an increased focus on issues such as sustainability, gender equality, human rights, and democratic governance, shaping the priorities and behavior of states and societies.
- **Regional Integration and Cooperation:** Regional blocs and organizations have gained prominence, leading to increased regional integration and cooperation. Examples include the European Union, ASEAN, and the African Union. Regional dynamics and institutions are influencing the global balance of power and shaping the world order.

### Changing world order and impacts on India:

- **Economic Opportunities and Challenges:** As the global economic center of gravity shifts towards Asia, India has the potential to benefit from increased trade, investment, and economic cooperation.
- **Regional Dynamics:** India's regional dynamics are influenced by the changing world order. As regional integration and cooperation gain prominence, India has been actively engaging with regional organizations such as ASEAN, SAARC, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association. India's foreign policy in the region is shaped by evolving dynamics and power shifts.
- **Security Concerns:** It includes managing strategic rivalries, countering terrorism and extremism, and ensuring maritime security in the Indian Ocean region.

#### Practice Question:

**Q. The challenges India faces in the emerging new world order are immense and encompass a wide range of conventional and non-conventional threats. Elaborate with suitable examples.**

## 7. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

**Context:** India has been a strong supporter of nuclear disarmament despite possessing nuclear weapons. The approach is a balance between India's efforts towards global peace and necessary deterrent in the face of nuclear-armed neighbors i.e. China and Pakistan.

#### Background:

- Nuclear disarmament is the process of reducing and eradicating the global stockpile of nuclear weapons while ensuring that countries without nuclear weapons are not able to develop them.
- Global efforts for disarmament include the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

#### India's viewpoint on global nuclear disarmament:

- **Establishment of a nuclear-free world:** India believes possession of nuclear weapons poses a threat to global security and that the only way to ensure peace and stability is for all nuclear weapons to be destroyed.
- **Discriminatory current regime:** Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) forms the basis of current efforts for nuclear disarmament but India finds it discriminatory as it creates a system of 'haves and have-nots.' Because of this India has refused to sign the Treaty.
- **Selective actions for disarmament:** India believes that the international treaties are aimed at disarmament and non-proliferation as they are selectively applicable legitimizing the monopoly of five recognized nuclear power states.

#### Future of nuclear disarmament

- **Signs of progress:** 2017 Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was a major milestone in the global efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons.
- **Efforts to reduce the number of nuclear weapons:** There are some efforts at a bilateral level between the US and Russia, the two largest nuclear weapon states. The START treaty, signed in 2010 aims to curb the deployment of nuclear weapons.

#### Challenges that still remain:

- **Lack of initiative from nuclear-armed states:** Nuclear-armed states have not taken concrete steps at the global platforms as they are wary of giving up the weapons. None of the nuclear-armed states signed the TPNW, limiting the disarmament efforts.
- **Emerging geopolitical scenario:** The ongoing war in Ukraine has reinforced the need for nuclear weapons as a credible deterrence. Against this backdrop, disarmament will be even more challenging.

#### Practice Question:

**Q. Explain the role of a variety of factors behind India's nuclear balancing act between disarmament and deterrence.**

## 8. NO-FIRST USE POLICY OF INDIA

**Context:** Due to the emerging security threats from China and Pakistan in India's borders, there have been some proponents for a relook of the long-standing nuclear doctrine. A shift in the policy will increase the deterrent against the hostile nations but it will not be free of challenges.

### Background:

- India has adopted a 'No First Use' (NFU) policy vis-à-vis use of nuclear weapons. An NFU policy essentially constitutes a promise, backed by a nuclear arsenal, to only use nuclear weapons in response to a nuclear attack.

### Need of a relook of the policy:

- Consistent security threat at the border:** India has been locked in military standoff with China since June 2020. Pakistan too, poses a consistent security threat to India.
- Use of non-conventional strategies by Pakistan:** Pakistan has been using unconventional means like terrorism to destabilize India. Another argument is that there is no guarantee that Pakistan will not use its nuclear weapons in the event of war.
- Strategic disadvantage vis-à-vis China:** The current policy may constrain India's ability vis-à-vis China which has more nuclear weapons and can use them against India in times of war.

### Arguments to keep the status quo:

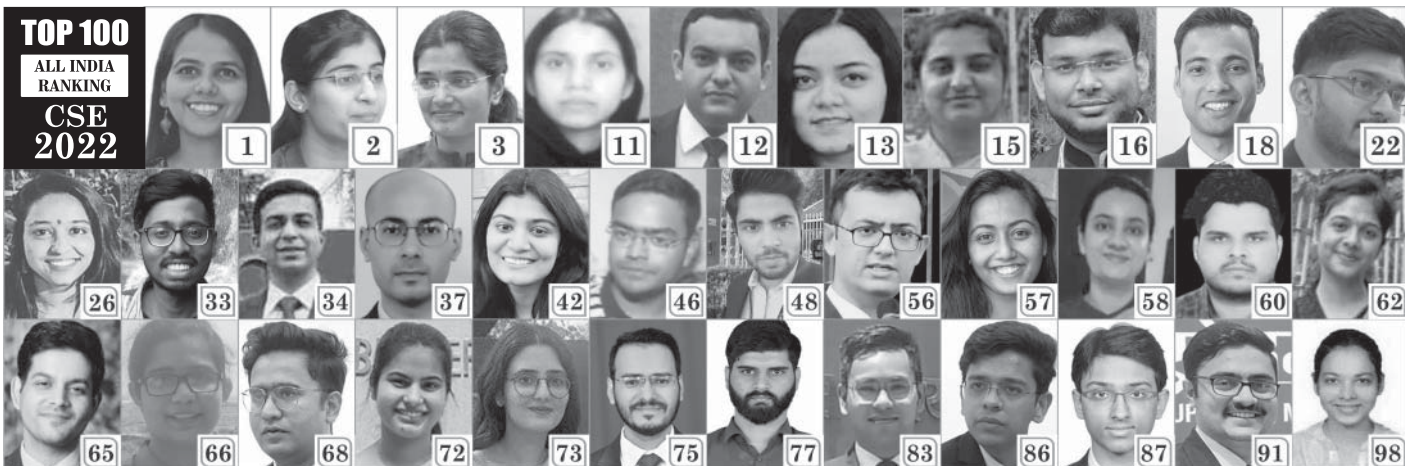
- NFU is consistent with India's stands on nuclear weapons:** India has been a long proponent of non-proliferation and full nuclear disarmament. A shift in the nuclear doctrine could hurt India's position.
- Shift could start an arms race in the region:** China and Pakistan have already enhanced their nuclear arsenal and a change in India's NFU policy can start another armed race in the region which will impact its security.
- Maintaining India's image:** Though India is not a signatory to the NPT it has many bilateral nuclear deals such as with the US, France etc. for the use of civilian nuclear power. A change in long-standing policy will hurt India's image as a responsible nuclear weapons state.

### Practice Question:

**Q. Regional geopolitical realities have a significant bearing upon India's 'No First Use' commitment. In this light do you think it is necessary for India to relook upon its 'No First Use' strategy?**







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