



SIVARAJVEL IAS ACADEMY
AN IDEAL INSTITUTE FOR **CIVIL SERVICE EXAMS**

TOPICS & POINTERS

Exclusively For
UPSC Mains 2023



**INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS**
GENERAL STUDIES-2
MAINS WORK BOOK

MOETIS 2023

Mentoring and Enabling Through Intelligent Support System

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS-PART 1 THEMES AND PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

Themes:

- **India and its neighbourhood relations.**
- **Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.**

Previous Year Questions

1. 'India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka'. Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in light of the preceding statement.
2. Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organisation like the SAARC? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two? How are Indian Foreign Policy objectives realised by forming this new organisation?
3. How will I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and USA) grouping transform India's position in global politics?
4. "If the last few decades were of Asia's growth story, the next few are expected to be of Africa's." In the light of this statement, examine India's influence in Africa in recent years.
5. "The USA is facing an existential threat in the form of a China that is much more challenging than the erstwhile Soviet Union." Explain.
6. Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. What importance does it hold for India?
7. The newly tri-nation partnership AUKUS is aimed at countering China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. Is it going to supersede the existing partnerships in the region? Discuss the strength and impact of AUKUS in the present scenario.
8. What is the significance of Indo-US defence deals over Indo-Russian defence deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
9. 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)' is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times – Discuss.
10. 'The time has come for India and Japan to build a strong contemporary relationship, one involving global and strategic partnerships that will have a great significance for Asia and the world as a whole.' Comment.
11. 'What introduces friction into the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India's national self-esteem and ambitions'. Explain with suitable examples.
12. "India's relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back." Discuss.
13. 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.
14. In what ways would the ongoing US-Iran Nuclear Pact Controversy affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to its situation?
15. '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.
16. The question of India's Energy Security constitutes the most important part of India's economic progress. Analyse India's energy policy cooperation with West Asian Countries.

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17. Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India's Look East Policy in the context of the post-Cold War international scenario.
18. "Increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of member-states by Pakistan are not conducive for the future of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)." Explain with suitable examples.
19. Increasing interest of India in Africa has its pros and cons. Critically examine.
20. Project 'Mausam' is considered a unique foreign policy initiative of the Indian Government to improve relationships with its neighbours. Does the project have a strategic dimension? Discuss.
21. Terrorist activities and mutual distrust have clouded India-Pakistan relations. To what extent the use of soft power like sports and cultural exchanges could help generate goodwill between the two countries? Discuss with suitable examples.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD

1.	China	
	<p>Economic Importance of China to India:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - China is India's 2nd largest trading partner, with trade worth \$125 billion. - Good swaps: Over 500 products of swap can lower the overall trade deficit. - Employment opportunities in 100+ MNCs in India Chinese companies. - Chinese FDI in India is \$26 billion. - India launched 3 IT corridors in China. - Utilizing the US-China trade war to boost India's exports. - Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) established in 2010. <p>Economic Issues between India and China:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trade deficit of \$69 billion. - Dumping of Chinese goods in India. - High import dependence and increasing trade deficit. - Dependence on pharmaceuticals API products from China. - Lack of access to Chinese markets for Indian products. - Economic tussle in the African continent. <p>Security Concerns between India and China:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction of a new road in the Chumbi valley near the Siliguri corridor. - Land grabbing along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). - String of pearls theory, for ex - Djibouti. - China's claims over Arunachal Pradesh. - China's barrier to India's multilateralism (NSG, UNSC). - China's support for extremists in Kashmir and Pakistan outfits. - China's influence on neighboring countries. <p>One China Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A key cornerstone of China's foreign policy, which states that there is only one Chinese government. - Countries seeking diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC, Mainland China) must break official relations with the Republic of China (ROC, Taiwan) and vice versa. - One China policy is becoming a burning issue between the USA and China with respect to China's sovereignty over Taiwan. - India initially accepted the One China policy, but now India's stand is that for India to agree to a one-China policy, China should reaffirm a one-China policy. 	

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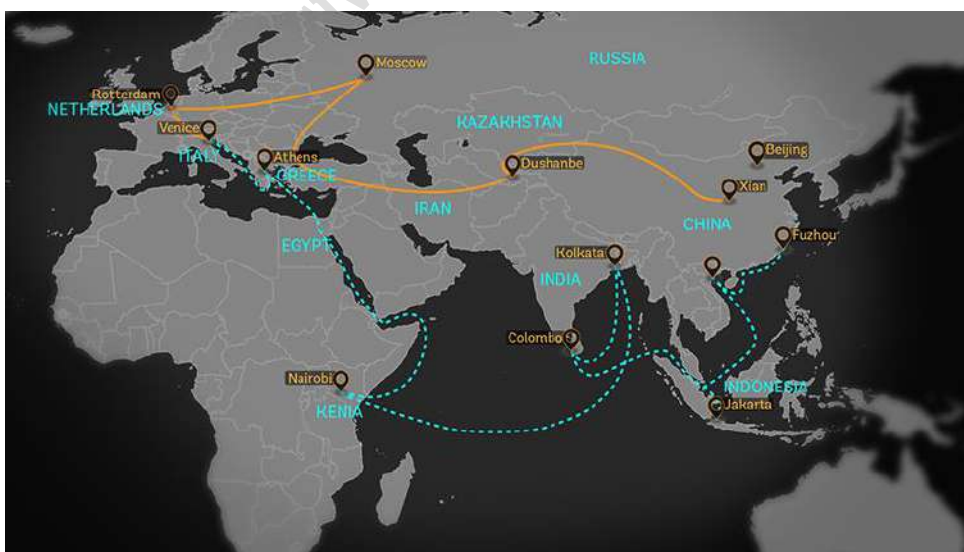
Water Disputes between India and China:

- The construction of several dams along the Brahmaputra River (known as Yarlung in China) on the Chinese side has become a repeated cause of concern for India due to:
 - o Degradation of the Basin
 - o Threats to Flora and Fauna
 - o The Himalayas being a zone of earthquakes and seismic activity
 - o Damming the perennial river would result in water security in an era of unprecedented shifting climate patterns
 - o Strategic Implications: There is the potential to significantly change the flow rate during times of standoffs and high tensions.
- “New Delhi must, and can, stand up to China when its national interests are at state and cleverly deployed political muscle will succeed in some instances.”

2. Belt and Road Initiative

Introduction:

- The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), also known as the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative, was announced in 2013 by China as a transcontinental long-term policy and investment program, with 126 countries and 29 international organizations participating as of now.
- The mandate of the BRI is to address the infrastructural gap and accelerate potential economic growth across the Asia Pacific region, Africa, and Eastern Europe.



Objectives of the BRI:

- Creation of a unified large market.
- Facilitation of cultural exchange and integration.

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- Enhancement of mutual understanding and trust among member nations through capital inflows, talent pool, and technology database.

5 Cooperation Priorities of the BRI:

- Policy coordination.
- Facilities connectivity.
- Unimpeded trade.
- Financial integration.
- People-to-people bonds.

Major Concerns about the BRI:

- Chinese monopoly in projects: Most contracts (93%) have gone to state-owned enterprises in China, with host countries or other companies having little role to play.
- Increased corruption and reduced competition.
- Lack of transparency and environmental concerns.
- Debt trap diplomacy.

India's Disapproval of the BRI:

- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor passes through contentious Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- Extension of CPEC to Afghanistan can hamper India's peace progress in the region.
- Lack of consultation with India.
- The string of pearls theory.
- Countering India's strategies in the North-East region.

Benefits for India if it joins the BRI:

- Economic benefits such as a boost to trade, investment, and business engagement.
- Direct access to Central Asia and Afghanistan.
- Improvement of Indo-China ties.
- Development of Gilgit-Baltistan region through BRI would help reduce security threats.
- Geopolitical issues and differences can be addressed by means of economic integration.
- The BRI is particularly important in times of increasing protectionism across the world. Moreover, political stability and regional cooperation in countries along the BRI are also significant for its success.
- The BRI is becoming less prominent in Chinese leaders' speeches as the Global Development Initiative takes over. This could potentially impact the future direction of the initiative.

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3.	Pakistan	
	<p>Evolution of relationship</p> <p>Phase of active aggression (1947 – 2001)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Wars - – Migration issues – Liberation of Bangladesh and India’s involvement – Operation Meghdoot in 1984 – Insurgency and disturbance in Kashmir Valley – 80s and 90s – Turning nuclear – India and Pakistan – Kargil War in 1999 – 2001 – Indian Parliament attack <p>Phase of reconciliation (2001-2008)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Seed was sowed during Lahore Declaration saw the start of Delhi-Lahore Bus Service in 1999 – Insaniyat (humanism), Jamhooriyat (democracy) and Kashmiriyat (Kashmir’s legacy of amity) – 2004 - beginning of the Composite Dialogue Process – India joined TAPI pipeline – Phase ended with Mumbai terror attack – 26/11 <p>Phase of renewed aggression (2008 - 2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Both countries were engaged in proving and rebutting the source of Mumbai attacks. – China and Pakistan signed the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) infrastructural project in 2015 which passes through the PoK. – Pathankot attack (2016), Nagrota attack (2016), Uri attack (2016), Amarnath yatra attack (2017) and finally the Pulwama attack in 2019. – ‘Surgical strike’ inside PoK and to the Pulwama attack by carrying out the Balakot airstrike in Pakistan. – India responded to the Uri attack by carrying out a revoking the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan. – Pakistan launched a global diplomatic campaign to attract international support for Pakistan’s position on Kashmir after abrogation of Article 370. <p>Issues</p> <p>Kashmir conundrum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The tug of war over Kashmir represented the contest between identities of two nations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ While Pakistan tries to alter status quo in Kashmir by force, India is content to retain its portion of Kashmir for all practical purpose, though POK is an integral part of India. – Human rights issue in the POK 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Doctrine of 'bleeding India with a thousand cuts' through Infiltration of terrorists and radicalization of youth <p>Boundary dispute and water dispute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Siachen glacier dispute - Pakistan occupied Kashmir - Sir creek dispute - Indus water treaty and dams associated with it - CPEC violates India's territorial integrity as it goes through Gilgit Baltistan. - Other issues: Capture of fishermen, Drug smuggling from the Golden Crescent, Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) sneaking through the western borders. - In keeping with its "Neighbourhood First Policy", India desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan. India's consistent position is that issues, if any, between India and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally and peacefully, in an atmosphere free of terror and violence. The onus is on Pakistan to create such a conducive environment. - It has been made clear that India will not compromise on issues relating to national security and will take firm and decisive steps to deal with all attempts to undermine India's security and territorial integrity. 	
4.	Sri Lanka	
	<p>Co-operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sri Lanka is among the major recipients of development assistance from the Government of India - The Indian Housing Project, with an initial commitment to build 50,000 houses for the war affected as well as the estate workers in the plantation area - Sri Lankan military personnel are trained by India. - Joint military training exercise between Indian Army and Sri Lankan Army is known as 'Mitra Shakti'. - In January, 2021, India sent a batch of 500,000 COVID-19 vaccines to Sri Lanka. <p>Issues in relation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - China has extended billions of dollars of loans to the Sri Lankan government, which is a case of concern - Fall of Hambantota to China's cheque book diplomacy - Fisherman issue: Given the proximity of the territorial waters in the Palk Straits and the Gulf of Mannar, incidents of straying of fishermen are common. 	

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	<p>Recent economic crisis in Sri Lanka:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sri Lanka's budget deficits were high during the war and the global financial crisis of 2008 - Easter bomb blasts of April 2019 in churches dropped the number of tourists sharply - Populist policies like lower tax rates and wide-ranging SoPs for farmers - Due to covid, Exports of tea, rubber, spices and garments suffered. - The overnight shift to organic fertilisers heavily impacted food production. <p>India's assistance to Sri Lanka during this crisis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - USD 1.4 billion - a USD 400 currency swap - a USD 500 loan deferment. - a USD 500 Line of Credit for fuel imports. - India extended a USD 1 billion short-term concessional loan for procurement of essentials - Lately, again India has extended an "unprecedented support of over \$3.8 billion" - The need for national reconciliation through a political settlement of the ethnic issue has been reiterated by India at the highest levels. India is in favour of a negotiated political settlement, which is acceptable to all communities within the framework of a united Sri Lanka and which is consistent with democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights. 	
5.	Bangladesh	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India's role in the emergence of independent Bangladesh. - India was the first state to recognize Bangladesh as a separate nation. - In the last decades, India-Bangladesh relations have warmed up, entering a new era of cooperation, and moving beyond historical and cultural ties to become more assimilated in the areas of trade, connectivity, energy, and defence. <p>Bangladesh growth model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bangladesh's GDP growth in 2019 was 8.4% - maintained a positive growth rate even during the COVID-19 pandemic. - Its GDP per capita is around \$2,000 which is almost equal to India. <p>What aided Bangladesh growth model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on the intensive manufacturing sector: Its GDP growth is directly connected with the growth in the textiles and garments industry. 	

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- Got benefitted from **preferential trade treatments** with the European Union, Canada, Australia, and Japan with negligible or zero tax.
- **Liberalised FDI regime** - Bangladesh allows 100 percent equity in local companies
- **Innovative microfinance models:** - Grameen and BRAC have aided small businesses in the country.
- **Effective public health schemes: For example,** government schemes like **Pushti Apas** (Nutrition Sisters) **and** community health clinics.

Areas of cooperation and initiatives

Defence Cooperation:

- Various Joint exercises of Army (Exercise Sampriti) and Navy (Exercise Milan) take place between the two countries.
- The India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) came into force following the exchange of instruments of ratification in June 2015.

Cooperation over Rivers:

- 54 common rivers , A bilateral Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) has been working since June 1972.

Economic Relations:

- Bangladesh is India's biggest trade partner in South Asia. India's exports to Bangladesh for financial year 2018-19 (April-March) stood at US 9.21 billion USD and imports from Bangladesh for the same period stood at US 1.22Billion USD.
- India offered duty-free access to multiple Bangladeshi products.

Infrastructure Cooperation:

- India since 2014 provided 3 Line of Credit(LOCs) amounting to \$8 billion to Bangladesh for the construction of roads, railways, bridges, and ports. But due to slow project implementation from Bangladesh, only 51% has been utilised by it.
- India provided LOCs for the construction of Padma bridge.

Energy cooperation:

- India at present provides a power supply of 600MW from Palatana Power Plant in Tripura. In return, Bangladesh agreed to provide a 10 GBPS internet connection to India's North Eastern States.

Medical Cooperation:

- Bangladesh has received 9 million doses of Covishield vaccines from India so far.
- Apart from that, Bangladesh also accounts for more than 35% of India's international medical patients. Bangladesh alone

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	<p>contributes to more than 50% of India's revenue from medical tourism.</p> <p>Connectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three passenger and freight railway services are currently in operation , , two more routes are also restored by both governments. The recent Chilahati-Haldibari rail link is also a significant step. - Kolkata-Dhaka-Agartala Bus Service also launched in 2015. - Recently, the Indian Prime Minister also inaugurated the 'Maitri Setu' bridge. (connects Sabroom in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh) - Border Haats - Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT). - Agreed to an early operationalization of the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) initiative Motor Vehicles Agreement through the expeditious signing of the Enabling MoU - Bangladesh - Important component in Act East Policy <p>Border management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Largest land border - The India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) came into force following the exchange of instruments of ratification in June 2015. <p>Irritants / Friction Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Teesta River water dispute - Illegal Migration issue - NRC in Assam and its after impacts - Issue of Drug Trafficking, Human Trafficking, Cattle Smuggling - Rohingyas from Bangladesh into India <p>India and Bangladesh share bonds of history, language, culture, and multitude of other commonalities. The excellent bilateral ties reflect an all-encompassing partnership based on sovereignty, equality, trust, and understanding that goes far beyond a strategic partnership</p>	
6.	Afghanistan	
	<p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India and Afghanistan have historical and cultural links, with India playing a role in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan. <p>India's Strategic Partnership Agreement with Afghanistan:</p>	

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- The agreement aims to assist in building indigenous Afghan capacity and institutions, with \$650–750 million worth of humanitarian and economic aid.
- The agreement covers 4 broad areas:
 - o infrastructure projects,
 - o humanitarian assistance,
 - o small and community-based development projects
 - o education and capacity development.
- Examples of projects include the Afghan-India Friendship Dam, the Shahtoot Dam and drinking water project, the inauguration of the newly built Afghan Parliament, and a polyclinic in Mazar-e-Sharif.

Political Relations between India and Afghanistan:

- During Operation Enduring Freedom, India provided intelligence and logistic support for the Allied forces.

Challenges for India:

- Difficulty in recognizing the Taliban regime imposed through the use of military force.
- Three critical areas in dealing with the Taliban:
 - o Protecting its investments in Afghanistan.
 - o Preventing a future Taliban regime from being a pawn of Rawalpindi.
 - o Making sure that Pakistan-backed anti-India terrorist groups do not get support from the Taliban.
- Threat of radicalization.
- New regional geopolitical alignments (such as China-Pakistan-Taliban).
- Taliban's past record in power - erosion in women's and minority rights; overturning of a democratic system; imposition of the Taliban's brutal form of justice.

Prospects for India-Afghanistan Relations:

- Immediate goal: ensuring the safety and security of its personnel and investments.
- Long-term goal: finding a political solution to the crisis.
- A peaceful Afghanistan is essential to address India's energy needs through broader diplomatic engagement.
- Decoupling of Taliban-Pakistan relations.
- Providing more military training to Afghan security forces and investing in longer-term capacity-building programs.

Conclusion:

- India has to work with Eurasian powers to protect its interests and stabilize Afghanistan. If India remains active and patient too, many opportunities could open up in the new Afghan phase.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BBC News: Taliban’s takeover of Afghanistan has stunned security and diplomacy experts worldwide. This could potentially impact India’s relations with Afghanistan as well as its geopolitical position in South Asia. - Although the future is unpredictable for Indian interests in Afghanistan, India must continue its widely recognised humanitarian aid work and infrastructure development in Afghanistan. This ensures India’s outreach to be more substantial and acceptable 	
7.	Nepal	
	<p>Areas of Cooperation</p> <p>Defence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assisting the Nepal Army (NA) in its modernization by supplying equipment and providing training. - The ‘Indo-Nepal Battalion-level Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN’ is conducted alternately in India and in Nepal. - The Gorkha regiments of the Indian Army <p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India is the largest trading partner of Nepal (Bilateral Trade – US\$ 8.27 bn) and provides employment to 8mn Nepalese - Indian firms are among the largest investors in Nepal, accounting for more than 30% of the total approved FDIs <p>Connectivity and development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India has been assisting Nepal in development of border infrastructure through upgradation of 10 roads in the Terai area; development of cross-border rail links at Jogbani-Biratnagar, Jaynagar-Bardibas; and - Establishment of Integrated Check Posts at Birgunj, Biratnagar, Bhairahawa, and Nepalgunj. - The total economic assistance earmarked under ‘Aid to Nepal’ budget in FY 2019-20 was INR 1200 crore. - the ‘India- Nepal New Partnership in Agriculture’ was launched - BBIN <p>Energy Cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presently it produces only 1000 MW and imports about 600 MW electricity from India. - South Asia’s first cross-border petroleum products pipeline, constructed and funded by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., connecting Motihari in India to Amlekhgunj in Nepal was remotely inaugurated recently. <p>Education and Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scholarships to students , strong cultural links 	

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Border issues and other challenges

- **Reiterating that Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura are Nepali territories:** Nepal urged India to immediately withdraw its troops stationed in the Kalapani region and amicably resolve the border row through high-level dialogue based on historical facts and evidence.
- **Construction of roads:** The Nepal Government unwaveringly believes that construction of roads and other structures should be stopped.
 - o It violates the clause mentioned in Nepal-India Joint Commission which mentions that any dispute between the two countries should be resolved through diplomatic mechanism.
- **New map:** Nepal first protested the inauguration of the road claiming that it passed through its territory, and days later, it came out with a new map showing Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura as its territories.
 - o India reacted sharply to the move.
 - o Nepal's Parliament approved the new political map of the country featuring areas which India maintains belong to it.

Importance of Nepal's stability for India

- **Strategic location of Nepal:** immediate neighbour, natural security buffer between India and China.
- **Internal security:** deal with the rising nexus between the Maoist groups operating in India and Nepal and using Nepal as a transit base for their clandestine operations against India.
- **Security of India aided developmental projects:** Trust deficit between Nepal and India largely affected the implementation of various Indian-aided projects in Nepal such as cross-border railways, Pancheshwar multipurpose project, motorable bridges over Mahakali River among others.
- **Flood water management and development of hydropower:** Gandak and Kosi feed the perennial river systems of India in terms of ecology and hydropower potential.
- **People to people connect-** people-to-people relations between Nepal and India , open border system and people-to-people contacts of kinship.
- **Empowerment of Madhesis:** Their political empowerment through a democratic dispensation is important to India because any unrest there will spill over into our country.
- The open border is a safety valve for Nepal. Without compromising India's security, the challenge is to turn it into a bridge, not a barrier.

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8.	Bhutan	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India and Bhutan share a unique and time-tested bilateral relationship, characterized by utmost trust, goodwill, and mutual understanding. - The basic framework of India-Bhutan bilateral relations is the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in 1949 between the two countries and revised in February 2007. - India has consistently supported the socio-economic development of Bhutan. Hydro-power cooperation between the two countries is an example of win-win cooperation. - India has been extending economic assistance to Bhutan's socio-economic development since the early 1960s when Bhutan launched its Five Year Plans. India continues to be the principal development partner of Bhutan. - India is Bhutan's largest trading partner. Bilateral trade stands at over \$1 Billion - India is the largest source of FDI in Bhutan - Nehru-Wangchuck Cultural Centres in Thimpu <p>Concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indian interventionism - Bhutan claiming that Indian projects benefit India more than Bhutan. - Bhutan's trade deficit. - End of free entry for Indians into Bhutan – Now charged per day. - Indian separatist groups using Bhutan as a breeding ground. - Bhutan remains one of the key allies for India against China in the region and has been a long-standing friend, thus India must prioritise Bhutan's concerns regarding its environment and also energy security. 	
9.	South Asia	
	<p>Neighbourhood first policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immediate priority to neighbours: as peace and tranquillity in South Asia is essential for realizing development agenda. - Dialogue: It focuses on vigorous regional diplomacy through dialogue. First initiative in this direction was extending an invitation to all heads of government of SAARC countries for the oath taking ceremony of the Prime minister in 2014. - Resolving bilateral issues: through mutual agreement. Eg: India and Bangladesh have signed a pact to operationalise the historic Land Boundary Agreement (LBA). 	

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- **Connectivity:** India has entered into MoU with members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). These agreements ensure a free flow of resources, energy, goods, labour, and information across borders.
- **Economic Cooperation:** It focuses on enhancing trade ties with neighbours. India has participated and invested in **SAARC** as a vehicle for development in the region. One such example is the **Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) grouping** for energy development i.e. **motor vehicles, waterpower management and inter-grid connectivity**.
- **Technical Cooperation:** Recently a dedicated SAARC - share the fruits of the technology like **tele-medicine, e-learning etc. with the people across South Asia**.
- **Disaster management:** India's offer cooperation on disaster response, resource management, weather forecasting and communication and also capabilities and expertise in disaster management for all South Asian citizens. For example, India provided immense **assistance to its neighbour Nepal** in the aftermath of the 2016
- **Military and defence cooperation:** India is also focusing on deepening security in the region through military cooperation. Various exercises like **Surya Kiran** with Nepal, **Sampriti with Bangladesh** aim to strengthen **defence relations**. Also, India has committed to play a greater role in capacity building of the Afghan National Army by providing training to them.

Some initiatives under Neighbourhood first policy

- India and Bangladesh have signed a pact to operationalise the historic Land Boundary Agreement (LBA).
- India pledging a \$2 billion Line of Credit for Bangladesh, the largest single LOC(line of credit) for any country committed by India.
- BIMSTEC, BBIN initiative.
- India's assistance for reconstruction and development in Afghanistan stands at \$2 billion, Afghan Parliament building and Salma Dam is built with India's assistance.
- India always supports the democratic institution of any country.

BIMSTEC

- BIMSTEC is a regional organization comprising seven Member States around the Bay of Bengal region.
- It constitutes a unique link between South and South-East Asia with five Members from South Asia and two from South-East Asia.

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- BIMSTEC is significant for India as it allows the country to pursue three core policies: 'Neighborhood First', 'Act East', and the economic development of India's northeastern states.
- Through BIMSTEC, India can also realize its 'blue economy' ambitions and enhance regional integration and maritime security.
- BIMSTEC provides a platform for India to strengthen its relationships with its neighbors and promote shared growth and cooperation in the region.

Need for Reviving SAARC

Regional Disconnect:

- This makes it easier for member countries and international agencies, to deal with South Asia as a fragmented group rather than a collective one.
- This disconnect is a challenge to India's economic and security interests.

Impact of Covid-19:

- The impact of Covid-19, is a growing distaste for 'globalisation' and growing preference for nativism, self-dependence and localising supply chains.
- Regional initiatives will become the golden mean between globalisation and hyper-nationalism – SAARC can address this

Dealing With China:

- It is clear that tensions with Pakistan and Nepal amplify the threat perception from China, while other SAARC members (minus Bhutan), all of whom are **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** partners of China will be hard placed to help individually. – hence in dealing with China, SAARC comes handy
- Only a matter of time before china, it may hold a meeting of all SAARC countries except minus India and Bhutan for they are all part of the BRI, and even that they will be invited to join RCEP, which India declined.

Potential for co-operation :

- South Asian countries work as a collective to set standards for labour from the region, and also to promoting a more intra-regional, transnational approach towards tourism,

How to revive

- India must understand that engagement with Pakistan is very crucial for the revival of SAARC.
- India's conduct of foreign relations with immediate neighbours should be guided by the Gujral Doctrine.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All-of South Asia Approach: South Asian countries need to work as a collective to set common standards and promote a more intra-regional system - India can carry out infrastructure projects to improve connectivity, and improve people-to-people exchanges. <p>Roadblocks in securing a friendly neighbourhood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relation with Pakistan: challenge is to manage relationships with a state which, openly, uses terror as an instrument of state policy and has fractured, multiple power centres. - Unstable Afghanistan: Fragile within and facing state-sponsored external threat from Pakistan, a possible state collapse would spawn jihadist terrorism in all directions - China: China’s policy towards Pakistan, including the construction of the Gwadar port. Also, China-Pakistan economic corridor running through POK. - Anti-Indian sentiments: recent step of Demonetization impacted many countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar which use the Indian currency as a parallel currency within their borders 	
10.	ASEAN	
	<p>Act East Policy of India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Announced in November, 2014 - upgrade of the “Look East Policy” - a diplomatic initiative to promote economic, strategic and cultural relations with the vast Asia-Pacific region at different levels. - Aim: To promote economic cooperation, cultural ties - developing a strategic relationship with countries in Indo-pacific region - proactive and pragmatic approach - improving the economic development of the North Eastern Region (NER) - a gateway to the South East Asia Region. <p>India’s initiatives to strengthen the Act East Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agartala-Akhaura Rail Link between India and Bangladesh - Intermodal transport linkages and inland waterways through Bangladesh. - Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project - Kaladan transit project in Myanmar’s Rakhine state is seen as crucial to improving connectivity with the landlocked northeastern states - The Trilateral Highway Project connecting the North East with Myanmar and Thailand. 	

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- Under India-Japan Act East Forum, projects such as Road and Bridges and modernization of Hydro-electric power projects have been undertaken.
- Among other initiatives assistance has been extended in the form of medicines/medical supplies to ASEAN countries during the pandemic.
- Quick Impact Projects in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam to provide development assistance to grass-root level communities in the fields of education, water resources, health etc.
- Mahabahu-Brahmaputra inland waterway project - The launch of Mahabahu-Brahmaputra will be marked by the inauguration of the three Ro-pax vessel operations between Neamati-Majuli Island, North Guwahati-South Guwahati and Dhubri-Hatsingimari.
- Dhubri Phulbari bridge - Foundation stone for a 19-km-long four-lane over the Brahmaputra - will be India's longest bridge over a river that connects Dhubri in Assam and Phulbari in Meghalaya, to be constructed at the cost of Rs 5,000 crore.
- Bru or Reang resettlement - signed between the Government of India, Government of Tripura and Mizoram and Bru community representatives in New Delhi on 16th January 2020 to put an end to the 23 years old Bru refugee crisis.

Significance of South China Sea

Natural Resources:

- A source of about 10 percent of the country's fishery - makes it an essential source of food for hundreds of people - a major reason why people from different countries are claiming their rights over the sea.

Trade Route:

- The route passing through it, Malacca Strait is home to 55% of the trade - one of the busiest routes for trade.

South China Sea and China

- China claims almost the entirety of the resource-rich sea
- China's claim to the sea - based both on the Law of the Sea Convention - so-called nine-dash line - It extends for 2,000 Km from the Chinese mainland - encompassing over half of the sea.
- Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also have competing claims to various islands and features in the area.
- The US - playing a very important role in mending the dispute - it has wide-ranging security commitments in East Asia - is allied with several of the countries bordering the South China

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Sea, such as the Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam. It is also impacting the US.

Importance of the Indian Ocean Region

- **Historical importance:** One of the most important Sea Lane of Communication (SLOCs) for trade - due to the faster development in the region since ancient times. The trade between the African nations, the Indian sub-continent and the East Asian countries including China - kept the seas busy during early times.
- **String of Pearls:** China - established multiple bases in the Indian Ocean Region as a part of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) - For ex, recently China acquired the Djibouti base - in addition to the already existing Gwadar port - which is in the advanced stages of development - there are a number of logistics bases of China in the region - For e.g. the Hambantota port in Sri Lanka, Kyakpyu port in Myanmar etc.

India's Vision

- There needs to be a unified strategy and a common agenda to contain Chinese expansionist strategy in the Indo-pacific region - India needs to leverage its goodwill and growing soft power to strengthen its image as a global power.
- It is important to confront the bullying tactics of China on all levels, lest it continues with its expansionist policy in its neighbourhood - There is a need for strengthening the capabilities of Indian navy to ward off threats and be pre-emptive of other countries' efforts to control the Indian Ocean.
- India has traditionally been the power on which small countries in the Indian Ocean Region have depended upon - For e.g. the Indian navy supplied fresh water to Maldives when its Reverse Osmosis plant failed - Similarly, Indian military thwarted the attempts of mercenaries for a coup in Maldives in 1988 under Operation Cactus - It is important to maintain this dependency for strengthening Indian position in the region.

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GLOBAL POWERS

11.	USA	
	<p>Changing geopolitical equation with India[from being estranged democracies (during Cold War) to Strategic Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving cooperation: 2+2 Ministerial dialogues, response to Covid-19 and relations improving at both levels- at the strategic elite as well as at the people-to-people level. - America’s renewed interest in Indo-Pacific with the rise of China and India is becoming a reliable strategic partner in the region. Changing USA-Pakistan ties – losing a nuclear-powered ally to China. - From ordering sanctions against India after 1998 nuclear test to becoming a supporter of for India’s permanent membership in UNSC and early entry into NSG. - Strategic Energy Partnership: Established Joint Clean Energy R&D Centre and a priority initiative under PACE(Partnership to Advance Clean Energy). Civil Nuclear Cooperation signed in 2008. - Indian diaspora and cultural cooperation. - STA status <p>Strategic Cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Four agreements GSOMIA, LEMOA, COMCASA, BECA. - Cooperation in counter-terrorism and internal security: Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism; recently pledged to expand cooperation on law enforcement, sharing info and best practices and increasing strategic convergence. - QUAD, I2U2 - 2+2 Dialogues - Military Exercises: Yudh Abhyas, Tiger Triumph, Malabar - UAV Technology after India designated as USA’s major defence partner. <p>USA-China relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trade war and deteriorating relations with China: USA asserted that a “strong India” in cooperation with like-minded countries, would act as a counterbalance to China in the strategic Indo-Pacific region. - Supporting India’s reservations against China’s BRI: USA seeks the transparent infrastructure-debt practices in the countries facing debt due to Chinese financing under BRI. <p>Issues with trade and other challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - US is India’s largest export destination and second largest trading partner. But facing a mini trade war as USA withdrew 	

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	<p>special trade privileges for India under Generalised System of Preferences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - US complaining about India’s restrictive trade barriers and complex customs clearance procedures causing delays and increased cost. - Cap on H-1B visas (popular among IT professionals), would inhibit Indian works moving to US. - E-commerce policy of India was called “most discriminatory and trade-distortive” by the US. - USA has criticised India’s Data Localisation Policy: Says India’s requirements would severely hike the cost of American companies operating in India. - Iranian oil sanctions: No waiver for India to import oil from Iran. - India’s dependence on Russia’s defence equipment: According to CAATSA Act of US, sanctions can be imposed on countries procuring weapons from so called “rogue” governments, especially Iran and Russia. S-400 deal has caused a major cause of concern in India-US relationship. - Other issues like alleged IPR violations and USA’s exit from Afghanistan also have damaged the relationship between India and the US. 	
12.	Russia	
	<p>Intro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations and 50 years of Indo-Soviet Treaty. <p>Strategic importance of relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced levels of cooperation in almost all areas of the bilateral relationships including political, security, defence, trade and economy, science and technology, and culture. - India-Russia military-technical cooperation has evolved from a buyer-seller framework to one involving joint research, development and production of advanced defence technologies and systems. BrahMos Missile System as well as the licensed production in India of SU-30 aircraft and T-90 tanks are examples of such flagship cooperation. - S-400 deal strengthens India’s defence capacities. - Enduring symbol of friendship seen in: Space: Peaceful Use, Navigation, Satellite Manned Mission Training → Nuclear Energy- Kudankulam 	

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	<p>Irritants in the Ties:</p> <p>Proximity to the USA: Russia continues to mistrust US, principally because of the expansion of NATO towards its borders. → India QUAD membership.</p> <p>Russia - China Bonhomie:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Both share Anti- American foreign policy and a vision for a multi-polar world. • Russia’s economy critically depends on oil & gas exports. China being the largest importer of oil & gas is a big market for Russia’s exports. Russia supports BRI, China supports Russia in War. <p>Russia -Pakistan angle;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increasing closeness between Russia and Pakistan. Russia and Pakistan have indulged in defence exercises (Friendship 2020). Especially in Afghan Situation. - Russia’s changing foreign policy (Pakistan, China and Taliban)- Troika Plus→Pak seen as Zipper State -CAATSA sanctions (Waiver but still uncertain) 	
	<p>Implications of Russia-Ukraine War</p> <p>Global Economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oil and Natural Gas→ Ukraine and Russia→30%Wheat Exports→Deferred Pandemic Recovery→ Oil importing nations will widen Current Account Deficit→Supply chain of High Value- Goods and Critical Components ex: Wiring Equipment’s→ Debt Financing Problems for Emerging Economies (IMF Report)→ Financial Spillover and Global inflation. <p>Humanitarian crisis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 Million Refugees, 15k Deaths and counting <p>Security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cyber conflicts, Nuclear disasters- Zapphorizha Plant <p>Geopolitics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Divide of East vs West, Nord Stream, Tensions→NATO <p>Implications on India and India’s stance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India abstained vote in UNSC, UNGA. - India’s tightrope walk→ Strategic Ambivalence→Calibrated choice of Neutrality drives by concerns vis a vis China and Pakistan <p>Why?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Russia is a dependable Partner→ eg: 1971, Indo- Pak War, Indo-Chinese war, Nuclear tests Sanctions at all times Russia stood loyal 	

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	<p>Indian Economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food Inflation: Sunflower oil (80% From this region)→Wheat (30% Exports)→Crude oil prices→ Gold (Russia 3rd exporter) <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SWIFT vacuum can be used for pushing UPI as a Global alternative, India benefits from cheaper Russian Oil and Gas, Humanitarian Aid in war, and Operation GANGA for evacuation→ Can act as Mediator→ <p>Conclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Normandy and Minsk Agreements. NATO expansion will only lead to fueling of tensions. 	
13.	Eastern Economic Forum	
	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established in 2015 → To encourage foreign investments in the Russia's Far East Region (RFE). - Russia's aims: Connecting Russia with Asian trade routes; attract more investments; to survive economic crisis caused by sanctions with the help of China and other Asian Economics <p>Significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Covers one-third of Russia's territory and is rich with natural resources such as fish, oil, natural gas, wood, diamonds and other minerals. - China sees potential in promoting the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Polar Sea Route in the RFE. China's investments in the region account for 90% of the total investments. India seeks to expand its influence in the RFE. - India is keen to deepen its cooperation in energy, pharmaceuticals, maritime connectivity, healthcare, tourism, the diamond industry and the Arctic. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019, India offered a USD 1 billion line of credit to develop infrastructure in the region. • Business representatives of Gujarat and the Republic of Sakha (Russia) have launched agreements in the diamond and pharmaceuticals industry. <p>Opportunities for India in various sectors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trade and Investment: The EEF offers a platform for Indian businesses to explore trade and investment opportunities in the Russian Far East. India can leverage its strengths in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, IT services, agriculture, textiles, and automotive to enhance bilateral trade and investment with Russia and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. 	

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2. **Energy Cooperation:** Russia is a significant player in the energy sector, particularly in oil and gas. India, as a major energy consumer, can explore partnerships with Russian companies for the import of energy resources and investment in oil and gas exploration and production projects. Collaboration in renewable energy, including solar and wind power, is also an area of potential cooperation.
3. **Infrastructure Development:** The Russian Far East is rich in natural resources and has significant potential for infrastructure development. India has expertise in infrastructure projects, including construction, engineering, and urban development. Collaboration in infrastructure development projects, such as ports, railways, and industrial zones, can create opportunities for Indian companies.
4. **Technology and Innovation:** India has a vibrant IT sector and is known for its technological capabilities. Collaboration in areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, digital services, and advanced manufacturing can be explored at the EEF. India can also participate in technology transfer initiatives and research and development collaborations in the Russian Far East.
5. **Connectivity and Logistics:** Enhancing connectivity between India and the Russian Far East can open up new avenues for trade and investment. India can explore partnerships in the development of transport infrastructure, including maritime routes, air connectivity, and logistics networks. Cooperation in the North-South Transport Corridor, which aims to connect India with Russia and Europe via Iran, can be a focus area. E.g Ongoing Chennai vladivostok maritime corridor talks.
6. **Agriculture and Food Processing:** The Russian Far East has vast agricultural potential, and India is a major producer and exporter of agricultural products. Collaboration in agriculture, including cultivation, food processing, and agricultural technology, can lead to mutually beneficial partnerships.

India's Act East policy has played a crucial role in leveraging EEF & deepening Russia-India ties by aligning their geopolitical interests, promoting economic cooperation, enhancing connectivity, strengthening defense and strategic cooperation.

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14.	<p>India – Japan Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2022 marks the 70th anniversary of India-Japan diplomatic relations. <p>Background</p> <p>During ancient times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Rooted in spiritual affinity & strong cultural/civilizational ties. In 6th century -> Buddhism introduced to Japan -> Indian culture filtered & impacted Japanese culture. – In 752 A.D consecration of towering statue of Lord Buddha in Todaji Temple (Nara) -> performed by Indian monk, Bodhisena. <p>During Colonial times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Japan-India Association in 1903 -> Oldest international friendship body in Japan. – Japanese soil -> used by Indian revolutionary Rash Bihari Bose -> to fight against British rule to liberate India. <p>After Independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Signed peace treaty & established diplomatic relations in 1952. – India’s “East Asia Policy” & Japan’s “Free & Open Indo-Pacific Vision” -> cemented the bond. – India’s nuclear weapons test at Pokaran in 1998 -> Japan, being victim of two atomic bombs -> condemned. – “Global Partnership for India & Japan for 21st Century” signed in 2000 -> Upgrade in 2006 -> “Global & Strategic Partnership” -> In 2014, ameliorated further to “Special Strategic and Global Partnership”. <p>Bilateral Trade and economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Both signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in 2011. – Japan -> one of the biggest investors in India & 12th largest trading partner. – Some Mega Projects with Japanese investments: Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail, Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor, Dedicated Freight Corridor, Metro projects etc. – Trade between both -> \$16.95 billion in FY 2019-20. – Key merchandise: Petroleum products, textiles, Iron ore, Fish & fish products. – Important imports from Japan: Electronic goods, Automobile parts & Steel products – Recently India, Australia & Japan launched -> Supply Chain Resilience Initiative -> to counter China. – Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) -> to deepen economic relations. 	
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Security

- In 2014 -> inked the Memorandum of Cooperation & Exchanges in Defence.
- In 2020, Complementary Provision of Inventories & Services Agreement -> signed.
- Bilateral & multilateral training -> Ex: Dharma Guardian, JIMEX & Malabar Exercise.
- Both -> members of Quad -> to contain assertive China.

Infrastructure/Tech

- 11 Japan Industrial Townships (JIT) established -> including Neemrana in Rajasthan & Sri City in Andhra Pradesh.
- "Digital Partnership Deal" in 2018.
- Both launched a private sector-driven fund of funds -> to invest in technology start-ups in India.
- Cooperation in -> fields of ICT, 5G, under-sea cables, telecom & network security.
- Agreement on joint research -> in Earthquake Disaster Prevention -> signed.

Healthcare

- Similarities & synergies -> of India's AYUSHMAN Bharat Prog & Japan's AHWIN -> both consulted & coordinated.
- Japan -> budgetary support to India -> to contain COVID-19 & its socio-economic impacts.

S&T Cooperation

- Bilateral S&T cooperation -> through Inter-Governmental Agreement, 1985.
- Lunar Polar Exploration Mission -> by ISRO & JAXA.

Energy

- In 2015 -> Substantive Agreement on Cooperation -> in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy => India becomes the 1st non-NPT signed country to do so.

Opportune time for India-Japan relations

- Both aimed to keep balance within Indo-Pacific region.
- China shares sour records with India and Japan -> border anxiety.
- India, Japan & Italy -> trilateral partnership -> to counter China.
- India & Japan -> tenting for UNSC Permanent Membership & reforms in UN.

Challenges

- Trade ties remained underdeveloped -> compared to India's trade with China.
- Unable to collaborate in defence sector despite of huge potential.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diverging interests on economic issues like on E-commerce rules, RCEP etc. - India's non-aligned approach -> opposed to pro-US foreign policy of Japan. <p>Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Japan's ageing economy -> can be sustained by India's young demography. - Both -> champions of freedom, transnational morals/rules, inclusivity, free & fair trade. - Both countries can together help keep China in check. - Japan -> source of further capital investment in India. - Boosting trade & investment -> be balanced with lesser strategic collaboration. 	
15.	India- EU	
	<p>Intro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Geopolitical tensions- USA, RUSSIA, CHINA Axis → India needs to strengthen ties with EU. <p>Upgraded to Strategic Relations since 2004.</p> <p>Why EU Important? (New Delhi- Brussels)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Common Ideology → Political Democracy, Civil Liberties → Rules Based Order - Trade: 3rd largest After USA and China- 90 bn \$. - EU countries like France Support India's permanent Seat. - Convergence in Climate Issues <p>Strategic Relations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU is wary of growing Chinese influence in INDO-PACIFIC and is keen to support India along the US. - Global Gateway programme → counterfoil for BRI - Trade: BTIA → long pending, Phytosanitary Measures, Tariffs, India's goods and services underutilised. <p>Generalised System of Preferences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge and Education cooperation - But unmet and unmatched potential <p>Conclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With growth of threatening Chinese Presence in World Arena and Unpredictable Russia, India needs to strengthen its ties with blocks that push for a World with greater Economic and democratic freedom, liberty and human rights. EU is one such block. 	

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16.	India EU Bilateral Trade Investment Agreement	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BTIA: Broad Based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement - India-EU negotiations for BTIA - On 28th June 2007, India and the EU began negotiations on a broad-based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) in Brussels, Belgium. - These negotiations are pursuant to the commitment made by political leaders at the 7th India-EU Summit held in Helsinki on 13th October 2006 to move towards negotiations for a broad-based trade and investment agreement on the basis of the report of India-EU High Level Technical Group. - The negotiations halted in 2013 and renegotiations started around 2021 - Objectives: Promote bilateral trade, remove barriers, expand opportunities - Sectors: Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment - Areas of negotiation: Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade Remedies, Rules of Origin, Customs and Trade Facilitation, Competition, Trade Defence, Government Procurement, Dispute Settlement, Intellectual Property Rights & Geographical Indications, Sustainable Development - Trade partnership: EU as India's third-largest trade partner, India as EU's 10th most important trading partner - Comparative advantage: India's advantage in fish, coffee, tea, leather articles, silk, cotton - Challenges: Net losses for India in goods trade, divergence in expectations, trade disputes at WTO, FDI restrictions, restrictive measures, EU regulations and standards, data-secure country status, mobility of skilled Indian professionals - Tariffs: Proposed elimination of duties on 90% of tariff line within seven years, sensitive products on the negative list, over 400 identified as sensitive, 150 agricultural goods - Capital account restrictions: EU's suggestion to liberalize restrictions as part of the FTA 	
17.	Global Gateway	
	<p>Aim</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new European Strategy to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport and strengthen health, education and research systems across the world. - Aims to mobilize 300 billion euros (around \$337 billion) over a five-year period. 	

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Need/ significance

- Challenger to China's BRI
- Global Gateway and the **US initiative Build Back Better World** will mutually reinforce each other.
- Reduced Debt burden - debt trap diplomacy by china
- Sustainable growth: Countries need "trusted partners" to design projects that are sustainable.
- **Value Driven Model:** The EU will offer not only solid financial conditions for partners, bringing grants, favourable loans, and budgetary guarantees to improve debt sustainability – but also promote the highest environmental, social and strategic management standards
- No dependencies: The EU has pointedly emphasised its "values-based" and "transparent" approach, arguing it wants to create links, not dependencies.

Challenges

- Repackaging of Existing Projects like Invest EU, our research programme, Horizon Europe and the Connecting Europe Facility; investment sum remains a fraction of what China is mobilizing.
- EU - sought to increase **geopolitical influence** by investing in other countries; seeks to advance its interests and competitiveness.
- Value Driven Agenda of EU: Many middle- and low-income countries are demanding China's investment that doesn't come with value-driven agendas unlike that of Western investment which is invariably attached to Democracy & Human rights.
- China adapting to criticisms: Beijing is also increasingly showing greater empathy for the local economy and sensitivities, and the BRI is moving into new areas of sustainable growth and health where there is great demand.
- Challenges in mobilising Private Capital: While the BRI mobilizes state-owned commercial and policy banks, it is unclear whether the EU will indeed be able to tap into private capital. Infrastructure projects are costly and yield uncertain returns.

The Global Gateway Strategy is Europe's offer to build partnerships of equals, which reflect Europe's long-term commitment to the sustainable recovery in each of our partner countries.

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18.	UK	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India-UK relationship has been on an upward trajectory, exemplified by the conclusion of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2021. <p>Brexit and India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brexit will weaken the EU economically and politically as UK was the EU's second-biggest economy and a major net budget contributor, key military force and one of the bloc's two nuclear powers and permanent UN security council members. - In the longer term of balancing of global powers, a smaller Europe can be a weaker Europe in the face of an ambitious China and an increasingly protectionist US. - Both the U.K. and EU account for 23.7% of Rupee's effective exchange rate. With Brexit, foreign portfolio investments will outflow and can lead to the weakening of the rupee. - India's businesses based in the U.K. will be hampered as till now they had border-free access to the rest of Europe. <p>Significance of UK-India relationship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concluded first round of talks on proposed FTA. A successful agreement would provide a boost to UK's 'Global Britain' ambitions as it has sought to expand its markets beyond Europe since Brexit. - For UK: Seizing opportunities in the growing economies of the Indo-Pacific to cement its place on the global stage as a serious global actor. Easier to achieve with good relations with India. - For India: The UK is a regional power in the Indo-Pacific as it possesses naval facilities in Oman, Singapore, Bahrain, Kenya, and British Indian Ocean Territory. Better market access for Indian fisheries, pharma, and agricultural products besides duty concession for labour-intensive exports. <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colonial prism: Post-colonial resentments, consequences of partition, - Pakistan angle: UK doesn't have a "India first" strategy in South Asia unlike USA and France. UK is torn between its new enthusiasm for India and the inertia of its historic tilt towards Pakistan. - Britain's domestic politics: The Labour Party (historically empathetic towards India) has become rather hostile on India's internal matters, including on Kashmir. - Trade barriers: After Brexit, India needs to sign a bilateral agreement with UK for trade facilitation. - Chinese influence: UK has engaged substantially in China's BRI. 	

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	<p>Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognition of lack of harmony between different strands of relationships – arriving at common ground on troubling issues should be the primary concern. Need to bank on the profound ties of culture, history and language to further deepen relations between India and UK. 	
19.	Australia	
	<p>Areas of cooperation and significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political cooperation: Strategic Partnership in 2009 was further elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2020. High level exchanges like Quad, Foreign Ministers’ Framework Dialogue etc. - Economic and Trade cooperation: The Australian Government commissioned the India Economic Strategy to 2035 to define a pathway for Australia to unlock opportunities offered by Indian Economic growth. To support more Australian and Indian business partnerships, the Australian Government has launched the Australia India Business Exchange (AIBX) program. - Civil Nuclear Cooperation(2014): Australian Parliament passed the “Civil Nuclear Transfer to India Bill 2016” in 2016 which ensures that Uranium can be exported to India for civil use without any domestic legal action, despite India not being a signatory to NPT. - Defence Cooperation: Exercises like AUSINDEX(maritime), Pitch Black(Air force) and AUSRAHIND(army). - Energy cooperation: Australia’s agreement for to join the International Solar Alliance, Austalia-India Energy Dialogue to discuss bilateral engagement on energy and resources. - Education, sports, art & culture: Repatriation of Indian Cultural Artefacts; growing Indian community in Australia; improving cooperation in sports; education being the largest service export to India. <p>ETCA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signed a historic interim Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (INDAUS ECTA), which will give a fillip to India’s exports in the textiles, leather, gems, and jewellery sector Down Under. - Increases export and cheaper raw materials. - India will benefit from preferential market access provided by Australia on 100% of its tariff lines. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zero-duty access to 96% of India’s exports to Australia and will give about 85% of Australia’s exports zero-duty access to the Indian market - It lacks provisions on investment protection such as providing foreign investment to MFN and protection of foreign investors and national treatment. <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different concerns regarding China: Australia’s concerns lie in Pacific while India’s in Indian Ocean. - Australia has a certain lack of confidence given that New Delhi seems ambiguous about whether to balance or hedge. These differences might partly have to do with strategic histories. - AUKUS: India and France feel left out of a new security partnership. - Despite the Civil Nuclear Deal, still no major shipment of Uranium has been supplied to India. <p>Way forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As the threat from China grows, India and Australia should find more innovative ways to work together to shape a stable Asian strategic order. - The convergence of strategic interests in ensuring an Indo-Pacific order that is free of hegemonic and muscular policies is a glue that will bind India and Australia further in the coming years. - The two will likely also expand their partnership both in pursuing strategic partnerships and thematic ones like supply chain resilience initiative. - The two will likely also expand their partnership both in pursuing strategic partnerships and thematic ones like supply chain resilience initiative. 	
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BILATERAL TIES WITH OTHER REGIONAL POWERS

20.	<p>Taiwan</p> <p>Current status of India Taiwan Relationship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India is among the 179 of the 193 member states of the UN that do not maintain formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan. <p>India and Taiwan are celebrating 25 years of their partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India Taiwan relations picked up the momentum due to the New Southbound Policy initiated in 2016 by Taiwanese President Tsai to have wider engagement with potential allies and partners. 	
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- Through the policy, Taiwan has comprehensive engagement with Australia, New Zealand, India, South Asian and South-east Asian nations.

Trade and Investment

- Bilateral trade between India and Taiwan grew from US\$ 2 billion in 2006 to US\$ 5.7 billion in 2020.
- India and Taiwan have started negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) in December 2021.
- Although, the bilateral trade has witnessed an increasing trend in recent times, the trade is much below potential e.g., India's exports to Taiwan contribute only 0.65% of India's total trade, while imports form 1.02% of total trade.
- The cumulative FDI inflows from Taiwan to India have been worth US\$ 756 million between April 2000 to June 2022. FDI inflows from Taiwan increased almost 10 times between 2017-18 and 2018-19.
- In 2022, the State Bank of India raised US\$ 300 million issuing Taiwanese 'Formosa Bonds', the first Indian commercial entity to do so.
- The recently announced Foxconn-Vedanta Joint Venture to set-up semiconductor manufacturing unit in Gujarat is expected to invest ~US\$ 20 billion over the next few years.

Cultural

- Taiwan is aiming to strengthen cultural and people-to-people ties with India's Northeastern region by exploiting its 'tea culture' as a new form of soft power diplomacy.
- Since 2004, Taiwan has been offering 'Taiwan Scholarship' and 'National Huayu Enrichment Scholarship' to Indian students to study in Taiwan.
- In 2018, India hosted the first ever Taiwan Film Festival in an effort to showcase and promote Taiwanese culture in India.

Two recent developments have brought the India Taiwan Relationship into focus,

- The first was the China-Taiwan crisis precipitated by the visit of Speaker of the US House of Representatives to Taiwan in early August 2022.
- The ensuing crisis and possibility of Chinese invasion on Taiwan led to worries about disruption in the supply chain of semi-conductor chips used in digital devices.
- Taiwan is the biggest manufacturer of such chips.
- The second event was signing of MoU between Government of Gujarat and Vedanta-Foxconn Joint Venture in September 2022 to set-up semi-conductor chip manufacturing plant in Gujarat.

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- Foxconn is Taiwan based company and is one the world's biggest largest technology manufacturer.
- India Taiwan Relationship has remained subdued, with the Government of India maintaining restraint in order not to offend Chinese sensitivities.
- However, many foreign policy experts content that India should pursue its relationship with Taiwan with more vigour and counter the rising Chinese aggression.

Geo- Strategic

- The unfolding dynamic around Taiwan will have significant consequences for India's Act East Policy and its emerging role in the Indo-Pacific Region.
- Strengthening Taiwan-India ties within the rubric of the NSP also overlaps with Taiwan's relationships with Australia, United States, and Japan.
- Because these three countries, along with India, have formed an Indo-Pacific entente cordiale called the "Quad" to maintain a rules-based order in the region, Taiwan-India ties can benefit from the positive synergy of collaboration in areas of trade, research, and even defense.

Geo-Economic

- The unfolding trade war between the US and China is compelling Taiwan to accelerate its plans to move its large manufacturing bases away from China to Southeast Asia and India.
- For India to promote industrial production and create jobs, the Taiwan connection with its impressive small and medium enterprises is more than opportune.
- Taiwan's GDP is about \$600 billion and twice the size of Pakistan's economy. And few entities in the international system are today as eager and capable of boosting India's domestic economic agenda.

Conclusion

- It's true that India does indeed adhere to the 'One China' principle. But that shouldn't stop us from expanding appropriate relations with Taiwan which enjoys de facto sovereignty.

India's foreign policy priorities, particularly with regard to the Indo-Pacific, should accommodate Taiwan

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21.	Africa	
	<p>India – Africa Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – India and Africa have been connected by ancient maritime links and the common struggle against colonialism. India’s partnership with Africa is comprehensive and multidimensional. One-third of humanity lives in Africa and India. <p>Historical Ties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Geographical proximity & easy navigability in Indian Ocean ->resulted in well-established trade network, predating European exploration. – Political connection during the colonial era ->through M.K Gandhi who began his political career in South Africa, became the leader of colonized and established Indian Natal Congress in 1894. – After India got independence, it raised its voice for African liberation taking its case to all the available international forums. – End of racial struggle and decolonization became the rallying point of India–Africa relations. – Independent India, though extremely poor after two centuries of colonial exploitation, strived to share its limited resources with African countries under the banner of South-South cooperation. – India was a forerunner as a champion of the interests of the developing countries from Africa, particularly through the Bandung Declaration of 1955, the Group of 77, and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). – It is the sense of solidarity, mutual trust and confidence born in the difficult days of the Cold War which continues to drive India-Africa cooperation to this day. <p>Significance of Africa to India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Africa is a resource-rich nation ->crude oil, gas, pulses and lentils, leather, gold. – Energy Security ->India is diversifying its oil supplies. – Strategic Interests -> Horn of Africa region, is an essential shipping lane that connects the Indian Ocean to the Suez Canal. <p>Investment Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Africa ->population of over 1 billion with a combined GDP of 2.5 trillion dollars making it a huge potential market. – Africa ->emerged as an important market for Indian goods and services ->massive possibilities for digital penetration. 	

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- Africa is home to some fastest-growing countries of this decade such as Rwanda, Senegal, and Tanzania etc -> making it one of the growth poles of the world.
- Reform in Global institutions -> India's ambition to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council -> makes it imperative that it engages with all 54 countries of the continent.
- Convergence of interest -> in World Trade Organization (WTO) & in favour of multilateral trading systems.
- Cooperation to tackle terrorism

Areas of Cooperation

- Economic relations - India is the 5th largest investor in the African continent.
- Trade between India and Africa has increased more than eight-fold from \$7.2 billion in 2001 to \$63 billion in 2017-18.
- India is the largest contributor to UN-mandated peacekeeping and other operations in Africa.
- Indian-manufactured drugs has also been essential in the fight against the HIV and AIDS pandemic in Africa.
- Covid-19 Response -> India has used its economic capacity, medical equipment, and medicine, to assist African countries.
- Asia-Africa Growth Corridor -> an economic cooperation agreement between India and Japan -> "sustainable and innovative development".

Development Initiatives by India in Africa

- Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) -> aims at capacity building, skill development, transfer of technology.
- Pan-African e-network -> India & African Union initiative to provide satellite connectivity, tele-education, and telemedicine services to African countries.
- Cooperation with African Development Bank (AfDB) and \$10 billion line of credit to help financing the projects in African countries.
- Supporting Indian Trade and Investment for Africa (SITA) -> International Trade centre supported project -> aims at increasing value of business transactions between India and selected East African countries to create jobs.
- Techno-Economic Approach for Africa-India Movement (TEAM-9) -> aimed at engaging the underdeveloped, yet resource-wealthy countries of West Africa.
- India has set up over 100 training institutes in African countries -> encompassing agriculture, rural development &

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food processing to information technology, vocational training, and entrepreneurship development.

- India Africa Forum Summit → official platform for the African Indian relations.
- Sub-national level diplomacy → Kerala government is trying to meet its raw cashew nuts requirement with imports from Africa.

India's Challenges in Africa

- Political instability → continuous civil wars, ethnic conflicts, and political instabilities -> impact India's long-term investment opportunities.
- Terrorism in Africa → by extremists connected to al-Qaida and ISIS.
- India has no coordinated policy for Africa.
- Attacks on Africans in India → generate a negative image of India in Africa.
- Financial limitations → In terms of chequebook diplomacy, India cannot compete with China or U.S. ->causes delay in various projects, including the AAGC.
- China's aggressive economic approach ->achieved more influence in Africa.
- China even built up its first overseas military base in Djibouti.
- Concerns on Chinese investments, Neo-Colonialism, and international competition in their soil have been raised by African civil society → this offers opportunity for India.

Way Forward

- Chinese investment in Africa is seen as neo-colonial in nature. India's approach focuses on building local capacities & equal partnerships with Africans. Africa wants India to act as a balancer and net security provider.
- India and Africa fought colonialism together → now becoming voice of developing world.
- Indian-African synergies → be used for expanding sectors like tourism, banking, telecommunications, manufacturing, and agriculture.
- Harnessing India's experience with the digital revolution to support Africa's development.
- Renewable Energy → being a continental powerhouse of solar energy, Africa is crucial to the India fostered International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- Being the littoral states in IOR → work to deal with threats like terrorism and piracy → combating terrorism/extremism; keeping cyberspace safe.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maritime Cooperation → development of blue economy and renewable energy → by Indian expertise. - Because of the social capital India has in Africa, acquired through the historical, political, economic and people-to-people ties → its presence is welcomed by African countries. 	
22.	Egypt	
	<p>India – Egypt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India and Egypt are two ancient civilizations with a rich history and cultural heritage. Both nations have played a significant role in shaping the world we live in today. - Over the years, the engagement between India and Egypt has experienced a revival, paving the way for enhanced cooperation and bilateral relations. <p>Historically - shared trade links through the ancient sea routes - fostering cultural and economic exchanges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In recent years, the relationship between India and Egypt has witnessed a renewed focus, characterized by increased bilateral trade and investment. - India has emerged as one of Egypt's top trading partners, with trade volume reaching new heights. <p>Pillars of ties - The India-Egypt strategic partnership is to be built on 4 pillars that have formed the core of the relationship -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Politics, defence and security ▪ Economic engagement ▪ Academic and scientific exchanges ▪ Cultural and people-to-people contacts <p>Cultural and people-to-people exchanges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One of the key aspects of the renewed engagement between India and Egypt is the cultural and people-to-people exchanges. India's cultural influence can be seen in Egyptian society, mainly through Bollywood movies, music, and yoga. - Similarly, Egyptian mythology, history, and architecture have inspired many Indians to explore and appreciate the rich heritage of Egypt. <p>Academic and Scientific exchanges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India and Egypt have been working closely in the field of education and research. Both nations have established academic exchange programs, allowing students and scholars to pursue higher education and research opportunities in each other's countries. 	

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	<p>Defense Cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both nations share common security concerns, such as terrorism and regional instability. They have conducted joint military exercises and intelligence sharing, facilitating stronger defense cooperation. - India has also provided technical and training assistance to the Egyptian armed forces, further strengthening the defense partnership between the two nations. <p>Economic Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wheat export from India: Russia-Ukraine conflict has threatened Egypt with a shortage of wheat, 80% of which is imported from Russia and Ukraine. On 14 April 2022, Egyptian Cabinet announced the inclusion of India in the list of accredited countries which can supply wheat to Egypt, thus ending a long pending Non-Tariff Barrier. - Technical cooperation and assistance have been a major part of our bilateral relationship. Since 2000, over 1300 Egyptian officials have benefited from ITEC and other programs like ICCR and IAFS scholarships. - In addition to bilateral relations, India and Egypt have been engaging in multilateral forums, such as the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement. Both nations have aligned positions on various global issues, including climate change, sustainable development, and terrorism. - They have supported each other's candidatures for important positions in international organizations, reflecting the mutual trust and cooperation. <p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To conclude, the renewed engagements between India and Egypt have brought the two nations closer, fostering a sense of mutual understanding and collaboration. <p>The historical ties, combined with the shared values and aspirations, have laid a strong foundation for enhanced bilateral relations.</p>	
23.	<p>Changing geopolitical equations in West Asia with a special focus on Saudi Arabia.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saudi Arabia has adopted an aggressive foreign policy in recent years as it is seeking to expand its influence in West Asia. - It is reaching out to old rivals, holding talks with new enemies and seeking to balance between great powers, all while trying to transform its economy at home. <p>Saudi Arabia's Changing stance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Balancing Ties with Global Powers - US, Russia, China 	

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2. **Changing Stance Towards Iran** - Mediated by China - shift from strategic rivalry and proxy conflicts to tactical de-escalation and mutual coexistence with Iran.

How Saudi Arabia is balancing between global powers



Reasons for this Shift

1. **US's deprioritisation of West Asia**, making Saudi Arabia realize that it needs to establish its own autonomy by building loyal alliances with other great powers.
2. **Failed regional policies** such as for Syria and Yemen, where the Saudi intervention failed to deter the Iran-backed Houthi rebels.
3. China, which has good ties with both Iran and Saudi Arabia, **offered to mediate** between the two, and the Saudi seized the opportunity.

Implications on west Asia

- Saudi Arabia's normalization talks with Syria or its talks with the Houthis cannot be seen separately from the bigger picture of the Saudi-Iran rapprochement.
- If Syria rejoins the Arab League, it would be an official declaration of victory by Mr. Assad in the civil war.
- It would help improve the overall relationship between Damascus and other Arab capitals.
- Likewise, if the Saudis end the Yemen war through a settlement with the Houthis, Riyadh would get a calmer border while Tehran Tehran could retain its existing influence in the Saudi backyard.
- Such agreements may not radically alter the security dynamics of the region but could infuse some stability across the Gulf.

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Stake for India

- Chinese mediation between Iran and Saudi will create challenges for India as it will contribute to increasing Chinese influence in the region.
- Can lead to creation of China-Pakistan-Saudi Arabia coalition

Bilateral Ties with India:

UAE – India CEPA

- Trade-in Goods: India will benefit from preferential market access provided by the UAE, especially for all labor-intensive sectors.
- **Trade-in Services: Both India and UAE** have offered each other market access to the **broad service sectors**.
- **Trade-in Pharmaceuticals:** Both sides have also agreed to a separate Annex on Pharmaceuticals to facilitate access to Indian pharmaceuticals products.
- Indian exporters will also get access to the much larger Arab and African markets.
- CEPA will lead to an increase in bilateral trade from the current \$60 bn to \$100 bn in the next 5 years.

SAUDI – INDIA RELATIONSHIP

Significance

- Saudi Arabia is currently India's second-largest supplier of crude oil
- Saudi Arabia's a role in the creation of Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPRs) at Padur in Karnataka.
- Saudi Arabia is **India's fourth largest trade partner**
- The 2.6 million-strong Indian community in Saudi Arabia is the largest expatriate community in the Kingdom
- **Haj pilgrimage** is another important component of bilateral relations between India and Saudi Arabia.
- Both started their first-ever Naval joint exercise called the Al-Mohed Al-Hindi Exercise.

Challenges:

- The politics of the Middle East are complex and multidimensional.
- The Saudi Arabia-Turkey rivalry is one of the dimensions.
- Another dimension is the Saudi Arabia-Iran rivalry.
- Emerging western QUAD (India – Israel – UAE – USA)
- India's informal workers working conditions in Saudi Arabia

OIC and India

- The OIC is the **second largest intergovernmental organisation** after the United Nations with a membership of 57 states and acts as a collective voice of Muslims.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a country with the world's second largest Muslim community, India had been invited to the founding conference at Rabat in 1969, but was ejected at Pakistan's behest. - Later, India stayed away due to 2 reasons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) It did not want to join an organisation founded on religion. ii) There was the risk that improving bilateral relations with individual member states would come under pressure in a grouping, especially on issues such as Kashmir. - In 2019, India made its maiden appearance at the OIC Foreign Ministers' meeting, as a "guest of honour". It is a diplomatic victory. - In 2021, the OIC has called on the UN Human Rights Council to take "necessary measures" on the issue of Muslim girl students being told not to wear the hijab in Karnataka schools. - India criticised OIC for being "communal minded" and "hijacked by vested interests" – a thinly veiled reference to Pakistan. - The OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir that lasting peace in South Asia cannot be achieved without a settlement of the Kashmir issue. India is firm on its position that Kashmir is an internal problem of India. OIC has no locus standi in it. 	
24.	Iran	
	<p><u>Significance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Iran is located at strategic and crucial geographical location between the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea - it provides an alternate route of connectivity to Afghanistan and Central Asian republics, - It sits on one of the largest deposits of crude oil and natural gas in the world. (2nd-largest reserves of natural gas) - Iran was the largest supplier of crude oil before the US sanction. <p><u>JCPOA restoration and India's impact:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restoration of ties between the US and Iran will help India to procure cheap Iranian oil and aid in energy security. (India imports now is nil due to CAATSA) - Removing sanctions may revive India's interest in the Chabahar option, Bandar Abbas port, and other plans for regional connectivity. - This would further help India to neutralize the Chinese presence in Gwadar port, Pakistan. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renewed interests on International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), which runs through Iran, which connects with five Central Asian republics, may also get a boost. <p><u>Chabahar port:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boost trade ties, diplomatic ties, and military ties with Iran. - Provides India with better connectivity to Afghanistan bypassing Pakistan. - It will be the gateway to the INSTC which is a combination of road, rail, and sea routes connecting Russia, Europe, Central Asia, Iran, and India. - India can carry out humanitarian operations from this port if the need arises. - This port is just 170 km away from Gwadar port operated by China in Pakistan, hence this port would be of strategic importance to the Indian Navy and defense establishment 	
25.	Israel	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diplomatic ties only around 1992 – India is third largest trade partner of Israel in Asia and seventh globally - has several ties in agriculture, - India the largest buyer of military equipment - counter terrorism and defence. - Israel Palestine issue – De-hyphenated policy – balancing act by India – India favoured UNSC - resolution in 2015 to probe human rights violation in Gaza, however abstained in voting against - Israel – Recent years India stopped supporting Palestine at UN - Concerns – poor connectivity – Israel aligning with Saudi Arabia and China – Long pending - FTA yet to be signed 	
26.	South Korea	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Today, India-South Korea Relations → witnessing substantial growth → as both have similar ambition, values & dimensions → & both are in process of strengthening their defence, political, economic & cultural sectors. - Areas of Co-operation <p>Political / Diplomatic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During Korean War (1950- 53) → India played a major role in a cease-fire agreement signed between North & South Korea. - In 2015 → bilateral relationship was upgraded to ‘Special Strategic Partnership’. 	

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- South Korea's "New Southern Policy" → searches stronger diplomatic stand on imminent regional issues & to expand relations beyond its alliance/region → India has a major role to play.
- South Korea is a practical element of India's Act East Policy → promoting economic, cultural & strategic relationships in Asia-Pacific.

Regional Stability

- India, S. Korea → regional tensions with China → create a common interest.

Nuclear

- South Korea's key interest in managing their nuclear neighbour (North Korea) → is similar to India's considerations toward Pakistan.
- Containing North Korea → beneficial to India's economic & regional ambit in East Asia.

Economic

- Current bilateral trade between both → \$ 21 billion; Target → \$ 50 billion by 2030.
- India is among 10 trade partners of South Korea & 6th largest destination for Korean goods.
- Both signed → Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), 2010 → to improve trade relations.
- To facilitate investment from Korea -> India launched a "Korea Plus" facilitation cell under 'Invest India' -> to guide, assist & handhold investors.

Cultural

- Korean Buddhist Monk Hyecho or Hong Jiao → visited India (723 to 729 AD) & wrote the travelogue "Pilgrimage to the five kingdoms of India" → gives a vivid account of Indian culture, politics & society.
- Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore composed 'Lamp of the East' in 1929 → about Korea's glorious past & its promising bright future.

Challenges

- Stagnation in Economic relationship → struck at \$22 billion annually.
- Defence partnership → receded from great all-round promise to mere sale & purchase of weapon systems.
- Cultural prejudices/discrimination on both sides → preventing people-to-people ties.
- Indians → unable to distinguish between cultural/social characteristics of South Koreans → from Japanese/Chinese.
- Unfulfilled potential of Cultural Centres → Indian Culture Centre (ICC) established in Seoul 10 years ago → to promote people-to-people contacts -> has to reach wider audience &

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	<p>beyond the urban, English-speaking elite of Seoul → same with South Korean culture centres in India.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India-Republic of Korea (RoK) relations → has made great strides in recent years & become truly multidimensional → spurred by significant convergence of interests, mutual goodwill & high-level exchanges. 	
27.	Central Asia	
	<p>Location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. - Strategic location between Asia, Europe <p>Economic Ties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "New Great Game" played out in the Central Asian Region → - TAPI pipeline for energy demand - lack of physical connectivity -hurdle in building trade and economic ties. - INSTC is a multi-modal infrastructure network of ship, rail and road routes for transporting freight and link with Chabahar port - Central Asia has abundant natural resources, including petroleum, natural gas(Turkmenistan) and uranium(Uzbekistan), and abundant deposits of fertilizer inputs such as potash. - These sectors are increasingly service-oriented they could benefit from India's expertise in IT & IT-enabled services. - Tajikistan-- huge hydroelectric potential - Demand for Indian pharmaceutical products in the region. - Contract between Department of Atomic Energy of India and JSC National atomic company "KazAtomProm" for sale and purchase of natural uranium concentrates. <p>International cooperation and organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) - Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) - India has proposed setting up of 'India-Central Asia Development Group' to take forward development partnership between India & Central Asian countries - Need Connect Central Asia policy <p>Internal security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Proximity to Golden crescent <p>Defence ties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India's military base in Tajikistan- Farkhor base 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fergana Valley remains a hot spot of fundamentalism, serious threat from illegal drug trade from Afghanistan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Uzbekistan civil nuclear agreement with India <p>The China factor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - China's One Belt One Road initiative . - Trade between China and Central Asia has increased - Resentment among Central Asians, as they provide little local employment: Chinese companies import workers from China 	
28.	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation	
	<p>Intro:</p> <p>SCO is a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation→Traced from the Shanghai Five</p> <p>Body:</p> <p>SCO focus areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Connectivity and Digital Technology: BRI→INSTC o Terrorism: RATS framework→Nearly 600 Terror plots were foiled due to RATS o Security and Stability in Asia: Afghan stability and ISIS penetration. <p>SECURE:</p> <p>Explaining the SECURE concept, the Prime Minister said 'S' for security for citizens, 'E' for economic development, 'C' for connectivity in the region, 'U' for unity, 'R' for respect of sovereignty and integrity, and 'E' for environment protection.</p> <p>Significance to India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o India's has a Greater Role to play in the Region o India's "Look North Policy" o India's presence is a Balance of power in the region o Strengthens multi vector Policy o INSTC- Chahabar and Ashgabad Agreement leverage o India brings diplomacy, Skill, capacity building to table <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o China and Pakistan's Denial of Land connectivity o Growing Convergence btw China and Pakistan o India favours INSTC but not BRI- internal contradictions o Pakistan's membership in RATS but Grey listed by FATF. <p>Key words in conclusion:</p> <p>Reformed Multilateralism, Community of common destiny.</p>	

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IMPORTANT GEOPOLITICAL GROUPINGS

29.	<p>QUAD and AUKUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - QUAD – To check China’s growing influence in the Indo-pacific – free and open Indo-pacific - Bolster security and prosperity - AUKUS – security/military alliance of Australia, UK and US to develop nuclear powered submarines for Australia - common interest with QUAD in protecting Indo-pacific from China’s dominance - QUAD is broader themed than AUKUS: QUAD includes a wide range of multilateral issues. - France views AUKUS a concern over the nuclear issue – Indo France Indo-pacific partnership encompasses defence, security, trade, investment etc. - Indo-Pacific economic framework (IPEF) – a QUAD initiative – making Indo pacific an engine of global economic growth – supply chain resilience - Partners in Blue Pacific initiative-US and its allies + small island nations: support pacific islands to boost economic and diplomatic ties – elevate Pacific regionalism. <p>Significance for India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic cooperation and integration of likeminded countries - Checkmating China and emerging as a net security provider in the region 	
30.	<p>IPEF</p> <p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A modern regional arrangement to build cooperation and economic integration in the Indo-Pacific. ● 14 member countries ● Four core pillars of work: trade, including digital trade - supply chains- clean energy, decarbonisation and infrastructure - tax and anti-corruption ● Multilateral approach to regional economic integration ● Aimed at Structural economic transformation ● Similar to Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for TPP (CPTPP), and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) But US is not part of any of these. ● India has not joined in the “trade” arm of the IPEF due to many challenges relating to the accountability and transparency in digital trade. - against data localisation norms of India ● Recently “announced the substantial conclusion of the negotiations” of an IPEF Supply Chain Agreement 	

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Significance of Indo Pacific region for India

- strategically significant, with a large population and contributing **over half of the world's GDP**
- valuable **mineral resources, including offshore oil and gas**, and is a major driver of global economic growth.
- **vital choke points, such as the Straits of Malacca**, facilitate international trade, with a **significant volume of crude oil and global exports** passing through.

Significance of IPEF

- Enable countries to decouple from Chinese over dependence
- Enables the US to regain the dominant position bypassing China and the Russia
- Taxation being a part of the agreement leads to the development of standards for transparency in taxation.
- Encounters the influence of the regional organisations
- Mitigation efforts towards climate change
- 'soft law' framework with a great degree of flexibility which [allows] members to agree on only some rules/pillars

Opportunities for India

- Leverage IPEF to develop an **adaptive capability of its supply chain** to prepare for unprecedented events,
- Facilitates India's efforts to grow into a global hub for **making electric vehicles and transitioning to a pattern of energy consumption**
- The forum will play a critical role in **building global consensus on contentious cross-border tax issues**
- The forum is expected to supplement efforts to **improve tax administration and mutual cooperation**
- **Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Project's** Two-Pillar Solution and tax inspectors without borders.
- IPEF can aid in the development of green hydrogen ecosystem

Challenges

- No clarity on utility - IPEF neither a FTA nor a tariff reduction dialogue
- Committing to the labour and environmental standards is a major challenge for India
- No single undertaking principle - employs an 'à la carte' approach in which countries would launch separate negotiations under the four pillars. A country would be required to sign up for all components within a pillar, but
- Tax provisions are sovereign and should not be taken into international negotiations
- Credibility challenge as previous initiatives such as Blue Dot Network and B3W initiative made only a negligible headway.

Way Forward

- Quad-plus initiative - engage in Indo pacific beyond Quad and through plurilateral mechanisms. India can look to contribute

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	<p>to setting rules and standards for those industries and economic practices that would determine future geo-economic strengths of countries in future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All opportunities have downsides, and the IPEF is not an exception. The fact that it is actively negotiating FTAs with global middle powers and the large OECD economies (for example, the UK, Canada and the EU) and has been able to pull off agreements with the UAE and Australia in a quick time will give New Delhi the confidence to engage actively in standard-setting on contemporary cross-border trade issues. • India's role increasing as external economic engagement. 	
31.	I2U2: WEST ASIAN QUAD	
	<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – I2U2 initially formed in 2021 → following the Abraham Accords between Israel & UAE → to deal with issues concerning maritime security, infrastructure & transport in the region → called as 'International Forum for Economic Cooperation' → referred as 'West Asian Quad'. <p>About</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – I2U2 initiative → new grouping of I2 (India, Israel), U2 (USA & UAE) → will revitalize & re-energize alliances/partnerships & new partnerships around the world. <p>Significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Security Cooperation: help countries in exploring security cooperation within the framework. – Technological Hubs: Each of these countries is a technological hub. – Offers an opportunity to discuss food security. – Work Together in Different Fields: Technologies, trade, climate, fighting against Covid-19 & security. <p>Significance for India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – India gets advantage of the Abraham Accords → to deepen engagement with Israel → without risking its ties with UAE & other Arab states. – India → massive consumer market & massive producer of high-tech & highly sought-after goods as well → will benefit economically. – Help India → building alliances (political & social) 	

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MAINS – PART-2

Themes:

- **Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's interests, Indian Diaspora.**
- **Important International Institutions, agencies and fora - their Structure, Mandate**

Previous Year Questions

1. Clean energy is the order of the day. Describe briefly **India's changing policy towards climate change** in various international fora in the context of geopolitics.
2. 'Indian **diaspora** has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries'. Comment with examples.
3. Critically examine the role of **WHO** in providing global health security during the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. 'Too little cash, too much politics, leave **UNESCO** fighting for life.' Discuss the statement in the light of the US' withdrawal and its accusation of the cultural body as being 'anti-Israel bias'.
5. "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
6. What are the key areas of reform if the **WTO** has to survive in the present context of 'Trade War', especially keeping in mind the interest of India?
7. What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (**ECOSOC**)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it.
8. The question of India's Energy Security constitutes the most important part of India's economic progress. Analyse **India's energy policy** cooperation with West Asian Countries. (250 words)
9. Indian **Diaspora** has an important role to play in South-East Asian countries' economy and society. Appraise the role of Indian Diaspora in South- East Asia in this context (250 words)
10. "The broader aims and objectives of **WTO** are to manage and promote international trade in the era of globalization. But the Doha round of negotiations seems doomed due to differences between the developed and the developing countries." Discuss in the Indian perspective.
11. Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of **India's Look East Policy** in the context of the post-Cold War international scenario.
12. Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in **the UN Security Council**.
13. Project 'Mausam' is considered a unique **foreign policy** initiative of the Indian Government to improve relationships with its neighbours. Does the project have a strategic dimension? Discuss.

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EFFECT OF POLICIES AND POLITICS OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON INDIA'S INTERESTS,

32.	India's foreign policy
	<p>Determinant factors</p> <p>Geographical factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Geopolitics - any big incident in the whole of Asia affects India. - The Himalayas - determining relations with other Himalayan countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar. - China's dominance → impact on India's foreign policy → change in relations with Nepal. - India's dominance over the Indian Ocean → important power of the Indian-Pacific region. At present, the - Indian Ocean region → important route of trade and communication for the whole world. <p>Population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - second most populous, youngest country → becoming a consumption-oriented country, big market for all the producing nations, - Large population → problems like hunger, poverty is evident on India's foreign policy. - dispute in the WTO between India and America about the government's intervention in agricultural subsidies. <p>Government System:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democratic governance system → ASEAN countries plagued by China look towards India because India's democracy follows the principle of peaceful coexistence. - Parliamentary system + state governments → Tamil issue in Sri Lanka and the 2005 US Nuclear Deal. <p>Economic Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India had to open its markets in 1991 - Today economic growth attracts many countries - India is an important energy consumer, with countries like Turkmenistan, Iran Russia having economic alliances with India. <p>Culture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India's civil-civilian religious relationship is well established - The basis of India-Israel relations is somewhere in the policy of all religions of India.

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- Principles like imperialism, colonialism, opposition to armaments have been derived from the history of India which are seen in India's foreign policy today.

Regional Environment:

- In 1971, the alliance of China, US and Pakistan brought a crisis situation for India, then India got inclined towards Russia.
- At present - increasing dominance of China is →intensification of India-US relations.
- India has increased India's capacity and power with Look East to Act East policies and China's rise in ASEAN.

Global environment:

- Globalization- events in one part of world affects India
- Example of India wants democratic government in Afghanistan for the suppression of terrorism.
- Change of world order →India tries to reform the UN Security Council.

Military power:

- Export and import of arms
- Example: CAATSA Waiver

Objectives

- Preservation of India's territorial Integrity
- Independence of Foreign Policy → India's efforts to strengthen Afro-Asian solidarity, endorsement of non-interference principles in the internal affairs of other nations, adoption of a nonalignment policy
- Promoting International Peace and Security
- Economic Development of India

Basic Principles

- Panchsheel
- The policy of Non-alignment
- The policy of resisting Colonialism, Imperialism, and Racism
- Support for the United Nations, International Law, and a Just and Equal World Order

Evolution

The first phase (1947-62): Optimistic Non-Alignment

- India's goals were to protect its sovereignty, rebuild its economy, and maintain its integrity.
- **Non-Alignment Movement (NAM)** 1961 →of Third-World solidarity.
- The **1962 conflict with China** → harmed India's reputation.

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The second phase (1962-71): Decade of Realism and Recovery

- Defense agreement with the United States in 1964.
- **Tashkent agreement** 1965
- India has begun to **lean toward the Soviet Union**.

The third phase (1971-91): Greater Indian Regional Assertion

- India liberated Bangladesh in the 1971 → display of hard power
- difficult period → **US-China-Pakistan axis**
- **Nuclear explosion test in 1974** → India was sanctioned by the US and its allies (Pokhran I).
- The **Gulf War (1991-1992), the disintegration of the Soviet Union (1991)**, long-term economic stagnation, and domestic turbulence all collided in 1991, resulting in a balance of payment crisis in India.

The fourth phase (1991-98): Safeguarding Strategic Autonomy

- securing the country's nuclear weapons capability (Pokhran II 1998).
- India increased its engagement with the United States, Israel, and ASEAN countries.

The fifth phase (1998-2013): India, a Balancing Power

- The **nuclear deal between India and the United States** reflects this (123 Agreement).
- At the same time, India could unite with China on climate change and trade, as well as strengthen ties with Russia, all while assisting in the formation of the BRICS.

Sixth phase (2013-until now): Energetic Engagement

- **non-alignment to multi-alignment** in this period of transitional geopolitics.
- India's willingness to influence key global negotiations (such as the climate change conference in Paris) is also significant, ISA, CDRI,
- Through its approach to the **Indian Ocean Region (SAGAR initiative)** and the extended neighborhood, India has been able to assert itself beyond South Asia (**Act East policy and Think West policy**)

Challenges

Defence

- **Nuclear weapons, denuclearization, and weapon control**
- weaponized world, proliferation of nuclear weapons technology, appears to be a challenge with no immediate solution.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In such a scenario, India has no choice but to revise its nuclear weapons program and policy. <p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India's reliance on coal and crude oil remains high. - India's reliance on oil and gas imports has only grown over time. - Policy constrains regarding energy security. <p>Food and Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foreign policy and diplomacy ensure that India's legitimate claims are not abandoned when negotiating multilateral or global water-sharing agreements – Indus water treaty , Teesta , Daming Brahmaputra, kalapani - Food security – WTO issues <p>Terrorism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eliminating this global threat will be impossible without international cooperation. Cross border terrorism issues stalls regional integration and diplomacy <p>Diplomacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India’s miniscule presence in Latin American countries, Oceania 	
33.	Non-Aligned Movement	
	<p>Evolution of NAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Afro Asian Bandung Conference 1955→later led to the establishment of the NAM. - The first NAM Summit Conference→Belgrade, Yugoslavia, 1961. - It has 120 members → majorly from third world countries - There are 17 countries and 10 international organizations that are Observers at NAM. - The purpose of the organization was enumerated in Havana Declaration of 1979 to ensure "the national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of non-aligned countries" in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, and all forms of foreign subjugation. <p>Principles of NAM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect for the principles enshrined in the charter of the United Nations and international law - Respect for sovereignty, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of all States. - Peaceful settlement of all international conflicts 	

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- Respect for the political, economic, social and cultural diversity of countries and peoples
- Defence and promotion of shared interests, justice and cooperation, regardless of the differences existing in the political, economic and social systems of the States, on the basis of mutual respect and the equality of rights.
- Respect for the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence, in accordance with the charter of the United Nations
- Promotion and defence of multilateralism and multilateral organisations as the appropriate frameworks to resolve, through dialogue and cooperation, the problems affecting humankind
- Non-interference in the internal affairs of States

Objectives of NAM

- “create an independent path in world politics that would not result in member States becoming pawns in the struggles between the major powers
- The right of independent judgment, the struggle against imperialism and neo-colonialism, and the use of moderation in relations with all big powers as the three basic elements that have influenced its approach
- Facilitating a restructuring of the international economic order.

Significance during and after Cold War

- **Against Apartheid:** During 2nd NAM conference at **Cairo** the government of South Africa was warned against the **discriminatory practices of apartheid**.
- **Disarmament:** In the General Assembly, India submitted a draft resolution declaring that the **use of nuclear weapons** would be against the charter of the United Nations and crime against humanity and should therefore be prohibited.
- **UNSC reforms:** it was against the domination of US and USSR. It wanted the representation of **third world countries** to make UNSC more democratic. Members echoed with same demand at 17th NAM conference at
- **Failed to resolve regional tensions:** In the era of cold war the tension in South Asia escalated due to regional conflict between India- China and India-Pakistan. NAM failed to avoid tensions in the region, that further led to the **nuclearization of the region**.

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	<p>Relevance today and emerging global order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Cold War → between the US and China. This can be reflected in Trade War, Quad initiative, Indo-pacific narrative, emergence of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, naval presence in the Indian ocean, etc. - Neo-colonialism → China's investment in Africa and Asia through its Belt and Road initiative, debt trap diplomacy in many LDCs - Restructuring and democratization of the UN → undemocratic representation, veto power of permanent members in UNSC - Combating Global Issues → terrorism, weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), nuclear proliferation, ecological imbalance, safeguarding interests of developing countries in WTO (World Trade Organization) etc. - Economic gap between the first world and third world nations still exists - NAM continues to hold relevance to maintain world peace - Around two-third nations belong to the United Nations and represent almost 55% of world population, hence NAM has a significant role to strengthen and support to the UN - NAM acts as catalyst to foster the co-operation between South-South nations - Cultural diversity and human rights – In the environment of gross human right violation, it can provide a platform to raise such issues and resolve the same through its principles. - NAM supported the concept of sustainable development - The countries of NAM has inherent assets, such as a favourable demography, demand and favourable location. The cooperation can lead them to higher and sustainable economic growth. 	
34.	<p>India's Development Cooperation</p>	
	<p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India's efforts to engage in inclusive development cooperation with countries of the global South began in the 1960s. - The objective was to create a <u>participative structure</u> that can stand in contrast to the dominant traditional Western 	

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foreign aid model at that time, such as that of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

- As India's economic heft grew over the decades, the country's template of development cooperation has also received greater recognition.

Background

- The Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) was launched in 2003-04 and the country immediately started providing concessional financing for projects in developing countries.
- In the last two decades, India's development assistance flourished through this programme, particularly in the Asian and African continents.

India's Assistance in Development Cooperation

- The country's development cooperation interventions in the form of concessional finance, technical assistance, humanitarian endeavours, trade, investment, and allied diplomatic activities have substantially grown.
- While India in the past was a net borrower from organisations like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Food Programme, it had become a net creditor to both by 2003.
- In the last two decades, the amount of Indian development assistance and foreign aid grew. Budget allocation for foreign aid went from around US\$ 500 million in 2010 to US\$ 1.5 billion in 2015, and further to US\$ 1.32 billion in 2019-20 or 0.3 percent of the entire budget that fiscal year.
- In all this development assistance, India avoids describing itself as 'donor'; rather, it characterises its work as a **"partnership of mutual interest"**.
- India's development cooperation is untied and based on the needs of the partner country. The cooperation is firmly based on six pillars:
 - o sustainability and inclusivity;
 - o India's own development experience;
 - o the absence of conditionalities;
 - o demand-driven;
 - o the aim for mutual gains; and
 - o its contribution to India's soft power.

Mechanism of Development Financing

- The institutional framework of Indian development cooperation continues to be fragmented and needs consolidation.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Finance are nodal points of this structure; over the years, the Ministry of Commerce and the Exim Bank have assumed more significant roles. - Its aim to share India's development experience is threefold: capacity-building and skills transfer; trade; and infrastructure development. These objectives are achieved by, among others, extending <u>concessional lines of credit (LOC)</u> to developing partner countries. LOCs are originated and implemented through the Exim Bank, with the broader goal of creating socio-economic benefits in the partner countries. <p>India's lending:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More than 306 LOCs, cumulatively amounting to more than US\$ 31 billion, have been extended to 65 different countries, since the inception of the programme till April 2022. - At the time of writing this brief, more than 322 projects have been completed and 277 more are under implementation. - The projects include those in areas of critical infrastructure sectors like railways, roads and ports, power generation and distribution, agriculture and irrigation, manufacturing, healthcare, education, and various types of capacity-building. <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India needs money for its own development; why should it offer loans to others. - Exim Bank is wholly owned by the Indian government. Therefore, Exim Bank funds are public money is spending public money and putting it at risk for another country's development project economically wise. - The goods used by india could be of high cost. <p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diplomatic relationships and strategic interests have their own role to play in this development dynamics. Continuing the South-South cooperation legacy, India has performed fairly well in effectively using the LOCs 	
35.	India's Changing Climate Policy in the context of Geopolitics	
	<p>By pledging 175 GW of renewable energy & ratifying Paris Agreement -> India signalled its climate commitment. In multilateral forums, India championed equitable governance.</p>	

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Change in India's Climate Policy

1. Balancing national development and climate commitments: clean energy -> crucial component of the development agenda -> recognizing sustainable & low-carbon growth.
2. Shifting from a defensive posture to proactive engagement: India played a pivotal role in the successful adoption of the Paris Agreement & alliances like the International Solar Alliance & its implementation.
3. Leveraging geopolitical opportunities: India recognizes the geopolitical advantages of positioning itself as a global leader in clean energy and climate action. Dilution of UNFCCC by engaging on multiple platforms to tackle Climate change like QUAD.
4. Navigating international alliances and partnerships: India has strategically aligned itself with other major emerging economies, such as China and Brazil, through groupings like BRICS and BASIC, to amplify its voice in international climate negotiations.
5. Addressing domestic and international concerns:
 - i. Domestically, it focuses on enhancing energy efficiency, expanding renewable energy capacity, and improving climate resilience.
 - ii. Internationally, India advocates for common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) and climate justice → developed countries to fulfil their commitments & support developing nations. Also, proactive engagement to 'Handle Climate Crisis' rather than waiting for developed countries to assume responsibility for 'Historical Emissions.'

Aligning Climate Priority with Geopolitical Engagements:

In an era of geopolitical flux, India has been pursuing foreign policy goals on various forums where it has emphasised Climate Change.

Bilateral:

- i. Partnership for Green & Sustainable Development (Germany)
- ii. Engagement with small islands vulnerable to climate change via – FIPIC.
- iii. Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) with US under India-US Climate Clean Energy Agenda 2030.

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	<p>Mini laterals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. QUAD: Launching “Quad Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP)” ii. IPEF: Clean energy and decarbonisation as one of the pillars iii. I2U2: Clean Energy is a pillar, hybrid renewable energy project in Gujarat. iv. Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment → laid focus on climate action and clean energy. <p>Multi-Lateral:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Proactive Achievement of NDCs and Setting Target of Updated NDC under Paris Agreement. ii. Pledging to become a net zero emitter of carbon by 2070 to achieve 500 gigawatts of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030. iii. Launching ‘One Sun, One World, One Grid’ (OSOWOG) iv. Urged G20 countries to bring down per capita emissions to the global average by 2030. v. WTO (Agreement to curb ‘harmful’ subsidies on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing) First-time trade issues have been balanced with Environmental issues under WTO. <p>Conclusion</p> <p>India is playing a leading role in Climate negotiations and gained leverage to steer the global energy transition, upholding the interests of developing countries. India’s climate leadership portends its geopolitical rise as an ecologically-responsible power.</p>	
36.	India’s Defence Diplomacy	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Defense diplomacy refers to the use of diplomatic and military measures to promote national interests, security and international cooperation. It involves the use of defense and security policies, practices, and capabilities to establish and maintain relationships with other countries. These activities can help build mutual trust, strengthen alliances, and develop interoperability among different armed forces. <p>Facets of defence diplomacy - Defence policies, defence cooperation, joint training exercises, defence exports, Mutual capacity building, Humanitarian Relief and Disaster Response</p> <p>Returns of defence diplomacy - Security - Stability - Alliances - Cooperation - Defense exports - Economic benefits - Soft power - Influence - Resources - Strategic locations - Burden-sharing -</p>	

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Cost-sharing - Collective security - Reputation - Diplomatic standing

Reasons for India's raising potential of defence diplomacy

- Commitments in the Indo Pacific and Indian Ocean Region
- China's South China sea aggression - key for development with defence demands raising in South East Asia
- Increasing indigenization
- Aspiration of India becoming a superpower- Vishwaguru
- Procedures of export and acquisition simplified
- Increasing participation of private sector in the defence sector
- Impetus to the defence startups - IDEX

Defence Cooperation

- India has defence cooperation agreements with over 53 countries
- New framework for India US defence 2005 Since then - India signed COMCASA, LEMOA, ISA, BECA recently - resulting in **information sharing in warfare - Quad** -military cooperation - CAATSA amendment to avoid US sanctions on India
- India-Russia strategic partnership, driven by the Programme for Military Technical Cooperation inked between the two nations. The bilateral defence collaboration agreement for 2021-31 was signed on December 6, 2021, in Delhi at the first India-Russia 2+2 dialogue summit. Bilateral projects currently underway between the two countries include: Production of T-90 tanks and Su-30-MKI aircraft, Supply of MiG-29-K aircraft and Kamov-31 and Mi-17 helicopters, Supply of multi-barrel rocket launcher Smerch
- The India-Israel Vision on Defence Cooperation, signed by Benjamin Gantz and Rajnath Singh, lays out a detailed 10-year strategy for finding new areas of cooperation India has used Israeli equipment and technology such as unmanned aerial vehicles, missiles and radar systems for counterterrorism and border security.
- Other Countries - JIMEX Japan etc.,

Joint Training Exercises

- RIMPAC - Rim of Pacific Exercise , MALABAR, Samvedbna (south Asian Region), MILAN exercise - 40 countries are some of the joint training exercises that India participates in. Beyond this there are several bilateral and trilateral training exercises with several nations around the world.

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	<p>Defence capacity building for foreign countries - India as a net security provider of the region - Capacity building activities at Srilanka, Seychelles, Mauritius. India trains soldiers of Myanmar, Bhutan, Vietnam and Srilanka</p> <p>Proliferation Reduction – MTCR., No first use policy, Broker of peace in the region</p> <p>Defence Exports -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing heavily - to reach \$5mn by 2024 - Striking critical defence partnerships with various countries - Exports to South East Asia, some African countries as well as South American countries - BrahMos - Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam –Act EAST policy - Tejas LCA - potential for exports to Egypt and Argentina - Arjun Mark 2 tanks - Bahrain - Indian arms supplies to African nations - Further potential for Dornier 225, Advanced Tower Artillery Guns, Akash missile, Pinaka rockets, body armours and other arm supplies. 	
37.	Indian Diaspora	
	<p>Intro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In India, diaspora is commonly understood to include Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI), of which PIO and OCI card holders were merged under one category — OCI — in 2015 <p>India’s diaspora policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - J L Nehru’s views: the diaspora could not expect India to fight for their rights and therefore India’s foreign policy in the 1950s was accordingly structured as a model of non-interference whenever the emigrant Indians got into trouble in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, etc. - Rajiv Gandhi was the first Prime Minister who changed the diaspora policy in the 1980s by inviting Indians abroad, regardless of their nationality, to participate in nation-building, much like the overseas Chinese communities. - Under, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government after 2000, there came a lot of positive measures such as a separate Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, the Person of Indian Origin (PIO) Card, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, Overseas Citizen of India Card, NRI funds and voting rights for Indian citizens abroad. 	

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- In 2015, the Ministry of External Affairs launched the e-migrate system that requires all foreign employers to register in the database.
- In 2016 'Know India Program'(KIP) for diaspora engagement which familiarizes Indian-origin youth (18-30 years) with their Indian roots and contemporary India

Significance of Indian diaspora

- People of Indian origin hold top position in politics and business. For ex, several CEOs, Vice President of USA, etc
- Helped change political perception on India over time. Ex: changed US's views from sanctioning India for nuclear test to sign the India-US Nuclear Deal within a decade.
- It's not just a vote bank but can fully transfer into a political vote bank as well.
- The institutionalisation of "diaspora diplomacy" is a distinct indication for the fact that a country's diaspora community has become considerably more important as a subject of interest for foreign policy and associated government activities.
- Indian diaspora in western countries is one of the richest and most educated.
- Even migration of less-skilled or unskilled labour has helped bringing down unemployment rates in India.
- Positive systemic effects on the balance of payments. Remittances of \$70-80 billion help to bridge a wider trade deficit.
- Flow of technology and capital into India - important 'bridge' to access knowledge, expertise, resources and markets for the development of India with the rest of the world.
- Diffusion of experience and exposure: They spread the Indian Culture and traditions abroad benefitting India in general. Example: Yoga, Ayurveda, Indian Cuisine etc.

Challenges faced by Indian diaspora

- Heterogeneous in nature: different challenges faced and demands by the diaspora.
- Security crisis: In regions like Ukraine, Kuwait etc, during military intervention.
- Anti-globalisation: Increasing number of hate crimes against Indian communities.
- Brain drain: Loss of talent and taxes.
- Negative fallout: A strong and huge diaspora doesn't always prove to be beneficial. Negative campaigns if started will be hard to contain. For ex: Khalistan movement funded

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Returning diaspora: The semi-skilled labour is going to return after the infrastructure boom ends. <p>Way ahead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ease entry of foreign funds. - Address the problems of our overseas blue-collar workers - Negotiating a Standard Labour Export Agreements with the host countries - Inclusive Diplomacy. - Promoting tourism among 2nd generation PIOs. - Setting up Special Economic Zones, exclusively for projects to be set up by NRIs/PIOs. - Special infrastructure bonds for attracting NRI/PIO investments on the lines of the Israel Bonds. 	
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IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AGENCIES AND FORA - THEIR STRUCTURE, MANDATE

38.	UN Reforms	
	<p>Intro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UN has come a long way. Post cold War → Multilateralism → Ethnic Conflicts → Increasing Transnational Issues (Terrorism, Russia Ukraine War) → Revival of Cold War Era Blocks and Threats to Multilateral Regime → Post Covid Era. <p>Why We need Reforms?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expansion of Member states from 51 to 193 - Countries attained levels of Global Influence. Ex: India - Functions are becoming multidimensional - Questions on the legitimacy of UN - Underrepresentation of Africa- Asia and Latin America. - Misuse of VETO power by the P-5. <p>What reforms?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expansion of UNSC- Both Permanent and Non -permanent Members need to increase - New category within UNSC - Revitalising UN in Development. More focus on UNECOSOC- Global Inequality - Financial Reforms needed especially more transparency - Strengthening Peace Keeping Forces. <p>Peace Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1. Preventive Diplomacy 2. Post Conflict Rehabilitation 3. Arrangements for coordination 4. Efficacy of Sanctions 	

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	<p>Does India Qualify to be part of Permanent Member?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Founding member → largest constant contributor of troops to United Nations Peacekeeping missions → Upheld UN principles → 5th largest Economy → Global Initiatives → International Yoga Day → ISA → CDRI - India enjoys the backing of major powers. - Rescue Op's, Humanitarian Aid- India does commendable Job (Yemen, S.Sudan, Ukraine etc) - India has been a responsible power and it has contributed significantly in global peace efforts <p>Conclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India's claim for permanent membership is a genuine demand in the changed geo politics of 21st century. Overall reforms in UN will save it from redundancy. 	
39.	WTO Reforms	
	<p>Intro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WTO → Rules Based Trading, negotiation and Dispute settlement → must not become an instrument to promote developed nations' interests <p>EU Proposals for Reforms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU considers the WTO tradition of consensus-based decision making a challenge. - Calls for Flexibility- Plurilateral Agreements should be made Applicable to countries that accept. - Deliberative functions → permit issues to be discussed outside full membership - Committee Downsizing. - Change the member-driven character of the WTO. More role for Private and business - Sanctions for wilful and repeated non-compliance <p>Eligibility of Special and differentiated treatment defined on the basis of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OECD Member, High Income Country (WB), High Export Share <p>Long Pending Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permanent solution to public stockholding - Dispute Settlement Board → Like court without Judges - Appellate Board → Deadlock - Role of State Enterprises in Market (Conflicting Economic Models) - Issues of Developed vs Developing countries conflicting Interest - No meaningful Progress 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outdated Rules of Trade. Periodic Revision needed <p>12th WTO Ministerial (June 2022) Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multilateral agreement that would curb ‘harmful’ subsidies on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing for the next four years (India negotiated some exemptions for traditional and artisanal fishing) - No export restriction for Food under UN world Food Program - e-commerce Customs Moratorium extended till 2024. (India argues that it results in Revenue loss for Developing countries) <p>Vaccine Waiver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temporarily Suspend Vaccine Patent Protection for 5 years (India and South Africa wanted full waiver i.e even on treatments and diagnostics) <p>Conclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The process of WTO reform must keep development at its core, promote inclusive growth, and fully take into account the interests and concerns of developing countries. 	
40.	G20: India’s presidency	
	<p><u>INTRODUCTION:</u></p> <p>India's G20 Presidency is a medium of change towards more resilient, responsive, and sustainable health systems and to advance previously established G20 pandemic preparedness efforts. G20 can help shape a global health agenda focused on ensuring universal, affordable, and quality health services.</p> <p><u>WHAT IS G20?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Group of Twenty (G20) is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries on issues related to international trade. • The G20 members represent around 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population. <p><u>WHY IS G20 IMPORTANT FOR INDIA?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a platform for G-20 member countries to come together and prioritize multilateralism, share solutions that promote growth, remap development plans and achieve the Sustainable Development Goal’s targets (SDG). <p><u>THEME OF G20:</u></p> <p>The theme of India's G20 Presidency-“Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” or “One Earth. One Family. One Future” - is drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text of the Maha Upanishad.</p>	

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Below the G20 logo is “Bharat”, written in the Devanagari script.

AGENDA FOR G20 SUMMIT:

New Delhi:

- The G20 Summit is scheduled to take place in September this year in New Delhi.
- The key focus areas include digital transformation, climate financing, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and food security among others.

Green Development, Climate Finance & LiFE:

- The opportunity to lead G20 comes at a time of compounding existential threat, with the COVID-19 pandemic having exposed the fragilities of our systems under the cascading impacts of climate change.
- In this regard, climate change is a key priority for India’s presidential Presidency, with a particular focus towards not only climate finance and technology, but also ensuring just energy transitions for developing nations across the world.
- Understanding that the issue of climate change cuts across industry, society, and sectors, India offers the world LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) -a behaviour-based movement that draws from our nation's rich, ancient sustainable traditions to nudge consumers, and in-turn markets, to adopt environmentally-conscious practices.

Accelerated, Inclusive & Resilient Growth:

- An accelerated, resilient and inclusive growth is a cornerstone for sustainable development.
- During its G20 Presidency, India aims to focus on areas that have the potential to bring structural transformation. This includes an ambition to accelerate integration of MSMEs in global trade, bring in the spirit of trade for growth, promote labour rights and secure labour welfare, address global skills gap, and build inclusive agricultural value chains and food systems etc.

Accelerating progress on SDGs:

- India's G20 Presidency collides with the crucial midpoint of the 2030 Agenda. As such, India acknowledges the detrimental impact of COVID-19, which changed the current decade of action into a decade of recovery.
- In line with this perspective, India wants to focus on recommitting G20's efforts to achieving the targets laid out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Tech Transformation & Digital Public Infrastructure:

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	<p>As G20 Presidency, India can foreground its belief in a human-centric approach to technology, and facilitate greater knowledge-sharing in priority areas like digital public infrastructure, financial inclusion, and tech-enabled development in sectors ranging from agriculture to education</p> <p>Multilateral Institutions for the 21st century:</p> <p>India's G20 priority will be to continue pressing for reformed multilateralism that creates more accountable, inclusive just, equitable and representative multipolar international system that is fit for addressing the challenges in the 21st century.</p> <p>Women-led development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India hopes to use the G20 forum to highlight inclusive growth and development, with women empowerment and representation being at the core of India's G20 deliberations. • This includes a focus on bringing women to the fore, and in leading positions, in order to boost socio-economic development and achievement of SDGs. <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>By sharing its experiences with other G20 countries, India can help other economies adopt similar policies that can spur growth and development. And this can improve India's role in achieving all goals for welfare of the people of the country.</p>	
41.	BRICS	
	<p>Significance of BRICS for India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Geo-Politics:</i> Global geopolitics - made it difficult for India - to carve a middle path for balancing its strategic interests between the U.S and the Russia-China axis, so BRICS helps to balance the axis. – <i>Global Economic Order:</i> BRICS countries always vouch for rule-based world order - The BRICS community plays an important role in shaping global economic policies and promoting financial stability. – <i>Voice of Developing Nations:</i> Developing countries are crippling under the voice of western countries the BRICS has emerged as the voice of the global south – <i>Terrorism:</i> A strong stand against terrorism and bring about focused consultations on specific aspects relating to terrorism. <p>In Global Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – BRICS countries' sizable contribution to global growth, trade, and investment make it an important pillar of global order. 	

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- *Financial:* Structural imbalances caused by the global financial crisis of 2008 and protectionism - made the rising importance of the economic relations between the BRICS and other Emerging Market and Developing Countries (EMDCs) - create an opportunity for new initiatives for sustainable growth.
- *Security:* The US withdrawal from Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and Iran deal has posed a security threat
- *Poverty Reduction:* The BRICS contribution to world poverty reduction has been sizeable. Continued BRICS growth - remains important for poverty reduction as well as for reducing international inequalities

Importance for India

- India can benefit - collective strength of BRICS by way of consultation and cooperation - on economic issues of mutual interests - topical global issues, such as, international terrorism, climate change, food and energy security, reforms of global governance institutions, etc.
- India remains engaged with the other BRICS countries on its NSG membership.
- An integral part of India's grand strategy - a vehicle in India's journey from being a norm taker to a norm shaper.
- Offers greater bargaining space as India seeks to gain more prominence in institutions of global governance - shape them in the liberal international tradition with a southern ethos.

Challenges

- The marked dominance of big three Russia-China-India (RIC) is challenge for the BRICS as it moves ahead.
- To become a true representative of large emerging markets across the world, BRICS must become pan-continental - Its membership must include more countries from other regions and continents.
- The BRICS - need to expand its agenda for increasing its relevance in the global order - As of now, climate change and development finance, aimed at building infrastructure dominate agenda.
- As BRICS moves forward foundational principles of BRICS i.e. respect for sovereign equality and pluralism in global governance are liable to be tested as the five member countries pursue their own national agendas.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The military standoff between India and China on the Doklam plateau and Ladakh - which has effectively brought to an end the naive notion - China's efforts to co-opt nation states - integral to its Belt and Road Initiative - into a broader political arrangement has potential to cause conflict among BRICS members especially China and India. <p>Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BRICS should promote comprehensive development of all states both big and small - enhanced mutually beneficial cooperation among them on the basis of shared interests. - A civil society dialogue is much needed. - BRICS nations should strive for peaceful and politico-diplomatic settlement of crisis and conflict in various regions of the world. - BRICS - one of the pillars of the emerging fairer polycentric world order - plays an important stabilising role in global affairs. <p>Democratization of international issues agreements on global agendas should be reached with the widest - equal participation of all stakeholders - be based on universally recognised legal norms.</p>	
42.	World Health Organisation	
	<p>Financing and challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding - four kinds of contributions - Assessed contributions (once major contributor; now reduced) - Voluntary contributions - Core voluntary contributions - Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Contributions - Contributors – USA > Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation > GAVI Vaccine Alliance - India makes up 0.48 per cent of total contributions. - Challenges - dependant on donor funds - 80% of WHO's funding is tied to programs that donors choose - organisation's efficacy has come under question – during COVID, Ebola times. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - failing to vet information and share it in a timely and transparent manner - insufficient funding, structuring, staffing and bureaucracy - countries earlier dependent on the WHO for technical assistance - gained competence in the fields of public health and medicine. - US – Freeze funding – saying it as CHINA CENTRIC - WHO would have to work with its partners to fill any financial gaps that arise to ensure that its work continues uninterrupted <p>Reforming WHO and suggestions by India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need for WHO reforms - Lack of funding - Need to give more powers to WHO - No penalty for member state non- compliance' - Lack of information sharing - The demand for a review of the vaccine approval process - India submits 9-point plan for WHO reforms - Strengthening the Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) declaration process. - Funding - need to ensure that extra budgetary or voluntary contributions - to use wherever required the most <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ensuring transparency of funding mechanism and accountability framework - Enhancement of the response capacities of the WHO and Member States - Improvement of the WHO's governance structure - Improvement in IHR Implementation: - Access to therapeutics, vaccines and diagnostics - Creation of Global Framework for Management of Infectious Diseases & Pandemics - Role of Hosted Partnerships in pandemic management - need to set up “pan world surveillance” by leveraging the latest technology. 	
43.	Multilateral Development Banks: Reforms needed	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multilateralism refers to an alliance of multiple countries pursuing a common goal. • It is the most transparent and preferred mode of international cooperation and is based on founding principles such as consultation, inclusion and solidarity. <p>Recognizing the need for reforming the Multi-lateral Development Banks (MDBs), US President and Indian PM</p>	

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emphasized the importance of strengthening and revitalizing the multilateral system.

The emergence of MDBs

- At the end of WW-II, delegates from 44 countries met in Bretton Woods (US) to agree upon a series of new rules for international cooperation and reconstruction.
- This led to the creation of the IMF and World Bank Group (WBG) in 1944.
- The latter was responsible for providing financial assistance for the post-war reconstruction and economic development of the less developed countries.
- While the WBG is the oldest and the largest MDB, there are few other prominent MDBs and Regional development banks (RDBs) today.

Relevance of MDBs

- The two traditional goals shared by all multilateral institutions have been the elimination of poverty and fostering of shared prosperity.
- MDBs play a crucial role in providing financial assistance to member countries, particularly middle-income and low-income countries.
- They possess extensive technical knowledge and expertise in various sectors such as infrastructure, energy, agriculture, health, education, and governance.
- MDBs play a vital role in mobilizing private sector investment by offering guarantees, insurance, and risk mitigation instruments.
- MDBs promote sustainable development by integrating environmental and social considerations into their projects and programs -> climate change mitigation and adaptation, renewable energy, environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable infrastructure development.
- MDBs are increasingly focused on addressing global challenges that transcend national boundaries. They support initiatives related to climate change, pandemic preparedness, disaster risk reduction, conflict prevention, and post-conflict reconstruction.

India's significant role in MDBs

- India holds a significant number of shares and votes in various MDBs, including the World Bank Group (WBG) and regional development banks like the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- India often advocates for the interests and priorities of the Global South within MDBs -> to ensure addressing

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concerns & development needs of developing countries, and low-income countries.

Challenges faced by MDBs

- No longer suited in terms of the resources, cultural ethos and methods to address the emerging challenges – global public goods, climate change and pandemics.
- MDBs are in a state of stagnation, trapped in their procedures, approach and methods of work and resistant to structural changes.

Need to reform MDBs

- To broaden the mandate and vision: To address the challenges of transboundary issues and the opportunities connected with climate change.
- To expand the need for finance and the sources of finance: The WBG estimates that the average annual spending needed to address global challenges of climate change, conflict, and pandemics is \$2.4 trillion per year between 2023 and 2030.
- To mobilise private capital: The current system has failed to raise sufficient private finance.
- On the demand side, there are concerns about moral hazards associated with private capital.
- On the supply side, private capital is not immune to risks – such as those associated with foreign exchange.
- For India, reforming MDBs would mean advocating the voice of the Global South.

Way ahead

- Expert Group on Strengthening MDBs: Under India's G20 presidency, the Expert Group proposes to submit two reports.
- The first focuses on issues of vision, financial capacity and modalities of funding the MDBs.
- The second deals with issues related to harnessing private capital, risk mitigation, hybrid innovative financing, etc.
- Enhancing the lending capacities of multilateral institutions by optimising their current balance sheets to attract private capital.
- Creating an incentive structure and bringing changes to the current operating model of the MDBs.

Conclusion

- Making MDBs more relevant for addressing 21st-century challenges would contribute towards enhancing human welfare.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deeper integration with multiple stakeholders is crucial. If MDBs do not respond to these new challenges, they will become increasingly irrelevant and be substituted by other forms of cooperation. 	
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OTHER GLOBAL ISSUES

44.	Global Energy Crisis	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - World faces energy crisis with consistent rise in oil prices - > Ex: Coal & power crisis in China, Coal crisis in India, Fuel crisis in UK. - US, China, UK, India, Europe, South Korea -> worst hit by the energy crunch. <p>Reasons for the current global energy crisis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current global energy crisis -> result of cascade of issues faced by different countries => Pandemic, Greenflation, geopolitics, etc. - Covid-19 pandemic -> reduced gas & electricity use sharply, in contrast to overproduction from oil & gas companies -> resulted to fall in wholesale energy prices -> in turn limited their production as well. - However, unexpected recovery from pandemic -> led to rapid increase in energy demands -> affected negatively by supply-side crunch & sudden inflation. - Heavy rainfall in South & South-East Asia -> made coal mining difficult in countries like India & China -> facing coal crisis. - In Europe -> harsh winter conditions -> adversely affect the gas transport systems -> as most of the gas in Europe is imported -> heightened the energy crisis. - Move towards sustainable sources of energy -> demand for limited energy sources like natural gas increased -> causing 'greenflation'. - Many countries closed their coal fields -> due to environmental concerns. - Geopolitics elevates energy crises in some regions. Ex: Russia has not increased the supplies to EU -> to put pressure on Nord Stream 2 pipeline approval. <p>Energy crisis in India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India -> depends on fossil fuels (70% of its power requirements) -> currently, the coal stocks are abysmally low. <p>Major reasons,</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Power consumption in many states like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra & Karnataka -> risen from 14% to 21% after pandemic -> putting strain on production & supply network. - Power crisis in China -> hiked the demand & prices of fuel globally. - India imports most of its coal from outside & supply chain bottlenecks -> still not smoothed post-pandemic. - Widening gap between low cost of electricity & high prices of imported coal. - India -> 4th largest coal reserves in the world -> but, local supplies strained due to a drop in investments in fossil fuels -> to meet climate targets. - Power companies -> did not stockpile coal -> due to high costs of stockpiling. <p>Way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - World is in energy transition stage. - Most of the consumptive & fast-growing economies -> heavily dependent on thermal energy -> difficult to switch to renewables quickly => hence, divide the attention towards sustainable alternatives -> also to achieve better stability in future & avoid future energy crises. - Many countries -> taking measures on war footing scale -> to tackle the crisis by working with state-run organizations -> to boost mining & production of coal -> trying to set the right balance between green energy & fossil fuel usage. - California has installed solar-powered batteries connected to the grid -> store excess energy & dispatch back into the grid after sunset. - “Green Grids Initiative”, “One sun One world One grid” -> introduced by India -> right step in harnessing & saving energy for the future. - In today’s scenario -> climate change mitigation & tackling the energy crisis -> have to go hand in hand -> as both are complexly interlinked. - Countries need to come up with solutions -> to control, mitigate & balance the future with present. 	
45.	The return of the nuclear weapons on the global stage	
	The emergence and proliferation of nuclear weapons have had immense consequences for global security since their creation. After a period of relative calm following the end of the Cold War,	

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recent geopolitical shifts have sparked concerns about the return of nuclear weapons on the global stage.

Reasons for the Resurgence:

Geopolitical Rivalries: The deterioration of relationships between major powers, including the United States, Russia, and China, has reignited geopolitical rivalries.

Arms Race and Modernization: States are engaged in an arms race, striving to develop advanced nuclear capabilities. The urge to possess modern and technologically sophisticated weapons has led to an increased reliance and potential use of these dangerous tools.

Threat Perceptions: The perception of growing threats, such as terrorism and regional conflicts, has led some states to reconsider their stance on nuclear weapons. They view them as a means of self-defence and as a way to deter potential adversaries.

Risks and Concerns:

The resurgence of nuclear weapons increases the **risk of accidents or miscalculations**, which could result in unintended nuclear detonation.

The return of nuclear weapons **threatens the erosion of arms control agreements and treaties**. This poses a significant risk to global stability, as the absence of robust agreements increases the likelihood of nuclear proliferation and escalatory arms races.

Nuclear Terrorism – The increase in the number of nuclear weapons and materials raises concerns about their unauthorized acquisition by non-state actors. The potential for nuclear terrorism heightens the need for enhanced security and vigilance across the globe.

Conclusion:

The return of nuclear weapons on the global stage is a deeply concerning development that threatens global security and stability. The risks of accidental use, arms race escalation, and nuclear terrorism necessitate urgent action. Through diplomacy, arms control, adherence to non-proliferation regimes, and public awareness, the international community can work together to reverse this dangerous trend. By prioritizing nuclear disarmament, the world can steer away from the brink of catastrophe and create a safer, more peaceful global landscape.

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46.	De-Globalisation or Protectionism	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protectionism refers to government policies that restrict international trade to help domestic industries. Tariffs, import quotas, product standards, and subsidies are some of the primary policy tools a government can use in enacting protectionist policies. <p>Protectionism in Global Arena</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Globalization had already begun to plateau or stagnate since the 2008-09 global financial crisis (GFC). - This is reflected in Brexit and US' America First Policy. - Further, trade wars and the halting of WTO talks is another recognition of the retreat of globalization. - These trends pave the way for an anti-globalization or protectionism sentiment, which may further amplify due to the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. <p>Protectionism in India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the past few years, many countries have criticized the Indian economy for becoming protectionist. This can be depicted in the following instances: - Not opening up for imports, particularly after the Indian Government failed to agree on terms for a mini trade deal with the US. - India walked out of the 15-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership of Asian countries. - The "Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliance) initiative", launched in May 2020, after the beginning of the pandemic, was also perceived internationally as a protectionist move. <p>Trade war - is a subset of Trade Protectionism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is a conflict between two or more nations regarding trade tariff imposition on each other's goods. - A trade war is usually initiated when a nation imposes tariffs or quotas on imports and foreign countries retaliate with similar forms of trade protectionism. As it escalates, a trade war reduces international trade. - Ex US imposed tariffs and quotas on imported Chinese solar panels and washing machines. China is a world leader in solar equipment manufacturing. The World Trade Organization ruled that the United States acted unfairly in levying the tariff. <p>Currency wars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed countries: like Canada and Australia have depreciated their currency due to falling oil and commodity prices 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - China: devalued currency due to slow growth - All these resulted in appreciation of US dollar. Thus, even the United States has entered currency wars to shield itself from the effects of other currencies. <p>Impact of currency war on global economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currency frictions - trade frictions, and currency wars - lead to trade wars - spell trouble for the US as it tries to conclude the mega-regional Trans-Pacific Partnership - The emphasis of countries shifts to using this tool rather than enhancing productivity. - Leads to excessive volatility in world economy especially in emerging economies like India which have witnessed excessive volatility in foreign inflows and exchange rate. - It can only lead to short-term growth and its utility can be easily exhausted when other countries resort to it as has been the case. <p>Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - De-bureaucratisation: India needs to put in place such policies that improve its competitiveness, de-bureaucratise some sectors such as agriculture, and make labour laws less complicated. - People-centric policies: The only way to trigger employment is to step-up value addition in the local area. There is a need for such people-centric and sector-specific policies in order to accelerate growth. - Alternative global alliance: India needs to now move beyond regional alliances and look forward to a cooperative alliance between like-minded countries in terms of trade such as the USA, EU, and Japan, to figure out an alternative to break the hegemony of China in the global supply chain. - Promote R&D and capacity building: There's a need to prioritize building capacity and policy framework to become cost-competitive and quality competitive. - Increasing Production: Enhance domestic Production as well as put thrust to increase exports and promote research to become more independent. India needs to plan now for the next 20 years. 	
47.	Changing world order	
	<p>Introduction:</p> <p>India, one of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies, is navigating through a complex global landscape that is rapidly changing. As the world order undergoes transformation, India</p>	

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faces both challenges and opportunities that will shape its future trajectory.

Challenges:

1. Global Power Shift: The rise of China as a global economic powerhouse and the resurgence of other nations like Russia has led to a shift in the balance of power.

2. Geopolitical Risks: The increasing geopolitical tensions, particularly between major powers like the United States and China, pose risks to India's stability and security. India must navigate these complexities while safeguarding its national interests.

3. Economic Inequalities: Despite rapid economic growth, India continues to battle high levels of poverty, income inequality, and regional disparities. Addressing these issues is crucial for sustainable development and ensuring social cohesion.

Opportunities:

1. Economic Growth: India's impressive economic growth provides it with a unique opportunity to position itself as a leading player in the global economy. By focusing on innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology adoption, India can attract investments and establish itself as a hub for business and innovation.

2. Demographic Dividend: With a young and dynamic population, India has a significant advantage in terms of human capital. Leveraging this demographic dividend through skill development and job creation can contribute to economic growth and competitiveness.

3. Digital Transformation: India's rapid digital transformation, evidenced by the surge in internet users and smartphone adoption, provides immense opportunities for e-commerce, digital services, and innovation.

4. Soft Power and Cultural Diplomacy: India's rich cultural heritage, diversity, and soft power, including yoga, Bollywood, and Ayurveda, offer a unique advantage in building bridges with other nations. Strengthening cultural diplomacy can foster better understanding, cooperation, and exchange of ideas.

Conclusion:

India finds itself at a critical juncture in the changing world order. While challenges abound, the country possesses several strengths that can be harnessed for sustainable development and global influence. To capitalize on the emerging opportunities, India must undertake necessary reforms, invest in education and skills, foster innovation, and strengthen its diplomatic relations. By doing so, India can not only navigate the challenges posed by the changing global dynamics but also emerge as a key player that contributes to shaping the future world order.

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48.	<p>Geopolitics of Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India's interest/new strategies & road to peace/stability in outer space. <p>Space Geo-strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - US – Russia → traditional rivals in space sector. - Emerging China → spatial capabilities & desire for foreign domination → both socially & militarily → democratic powers, to protect their national interests & sustainable order → reshapes Astro-politics. <p>Importance for India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Space → 4th possible arm of country's defence. - Space power means using space while denying reliable use to any enemy. - US, Russia & China → forerunners of Space Force; India → need to be properly equipped → to deal emerging security challenges. - India's 1st military satellite → launched in 2013 only. - However, 'Mission Shakti' → shown India's ability to identify enemy satellites. - Newly formed DSA (Defence Space Agency) → be supported by DSRO (Defense Space Research Organization) → to develop weapons to "degrade, disrupt, destroy or defraud an opponent's space". <p>Issues in Outdoor Space Geopolitics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - War & equipping the space → undermines internal trust/cooperation → stark contrast to constructive commercial & scientific projects for peace & development. - Destroyed satellites disperse into smaller pieces → 'Space debris' → potential hazard to active satellites. - Demand for Space Mines → create new era of conflict & new space race. - Space industry trade → USD 1.5 trillion by 2040 (estimated) → Acc. to US Chamber of Commerce. - Moon Rush → after the discovery of water & "Peaks of Eternal Light". Ex: China's Chang'e 4, NASA's Artemis program (human landing on Southern Pole of Moon), Blue Moon project (by Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin) - Space Situational Awareness (SSA) → monitoring the movement of all objects (natural & man-made satellites) & tracking/predicting where they will be at any given time. <p>Possibility of India's Outer Space Destiny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India-US Space MoU → sharing of information & services → ensuring long-term sustainability of space operations.
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- International cooperation on climate awareness → new space mission team set up by Quad → collaboration & share satellite information for peaceful purposes → such as monitoring climate change, disaster preparedness, sustainable use of marine resources & addressing shared domain challenges.

Way Forward

- India needs Public-Private Partnerships, structural regulation of commercial & scientific aspects of space programs.
- Funding for Space R&D → be expanded; Independent research institutes → encouraged.
- Need an independent regulator to control ISRO.
- Need for a Strong Regulatory Framework → to promote India's local work & protect its international interests.
- India must have a reliable & accurate track record of celestial objects, debris, spacecraft etc.
- For space defence to be effective → India must acquire minimum, reliable capabilities for a wide range of space, physical, technological & cyber weapons.

Conclusion

- Space → important in our lives → disruptions to space-based communications → negative consequences.

Scale of challenges & opportunities in outer space → requires urgent/sweeping changes.