



# TOPICS AND POINTERS

2022- MAINS STUDY MODULE



**SIVARAJAVEL IAS ACADEMY**  
FOUNDER - DIRECTOR OF SMART LEADERS IAS

# TOPICS & POINTERS

## ABOUT

The material aims to equip the aspirants with enough knowledge to attempt mains questions by incorporating various dimensions. This material will be provided every week as per the test module.

## HOW TO READ THIS ?

1. Only key points will be provided .
2. Readers are advised to make a synopsis from topics and points given.
3. Make your own chart, diagrams and maps after reading the topics.
4. Understand the topics. Don't try to memorise them but link organically
5. Make sure to complete the module before the Test on Sunday.
6. Revise, Write, Practice- Repeat

## MAINS ANSWER WRITING CHALLENGE

[t.me/srvmetis](https://t.me/srvmetis)

Starting from 13<sup>th</sup> of June till the end of the test schedule every day two questions will be posted and answers may be provided in the evening.



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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. "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.
2. "The **USA** is facing an existential threat in the form of a **China** that is much more challenging than the erstwhile Soviet Union." Explain.
3. Critically examine the aims and objectives of **SCO**. What importance does it hold for India?
4. 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.
5. What is the significance of **Indo-US defence deals over Indo-Russian defence deals**? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
6. 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (**QUAD**)' is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times – Discuss.
7. '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.
8. 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.
9. "India's relations with **Israel** have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back." Discuss.
10. 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**.
11. In what ways would the ongoing **US-Iran Nuclear Pact** Controversy affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to its situation?
12. '**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.
13. 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**.
14. Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India's **Look East Policy** in the context of the post-Cold War international scenario.

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15. "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.
16. Increasing interest of India in **Africa** has its pros and cons. Critically examine.
17. 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.
18. 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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1.	China
	<p><b>Economic Importance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- China is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest trading partner (100 billion dollar approx.)</li> <li>- Good swaps: Around 200 products of swap can lower overall trade deficit</li> <li>- Employment opportunities in 100+ Make in India Chinese companies</li> <li>- Chinese FDI in India is 26 billion Dollars</li> <li>- India launched 3 IT corridors in China</li> <li>- Utilizing US – China trade war to boost India’s export</li> </ul> <p><b>Economic issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dumbing of Chinese goods</li> <li>- High Import dependence and increasing trade deficit</li> <li>- Dependence on Pharmaceuticals API products</li> <li>- Lack of access to Chinese markets</li> <li>- Economic tussle in African continent</li> </ul> <p><b>Security Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Construction of new road in Chumbi valley near Siliguri corridor.</li> <li>- Land grabbing in Line of Action of Control.</li> <li>- Strings of pearls theory. Eg. Djibouti.</li> <li>- Claims over Arunachal Pradesh</li> <li>- Barrier to India’s multilateralism (NSG, UNSC)</li> <li>- Supports extremists in Kashmir, also Pakistan outfits</li> <li>- Influence on neighbour countries.</li> </ul> <p><b>BRI Implications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 Routes in BRI : Maritime Silk Road (MSR) and New Silk Road Economic Belt</li> <li>- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) which is India’s Integral part.</li> <li>- CPEC would hamper India’s strategic interests in the South Asian region and can aid Pakistan’s legitimacy in the Kashmir dispute too.</li> <li>- attempt to extend CPEC to Afghanistan may undermine India’s position as economic, security and strategic partner of Afghanistan.</li> <li>- China’s Strategic Rise in the Subcontinent</li> </ul> <p><b>One China Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The One China policy is a key cornerstone of China’s foreign policy</li> <li>- It is the diplomatic acknowledgement of China's position that there is only one Chinese government.</li> <li>- As a policy, this means that 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.</li> <li>- One China policy is becoming a burning issue between USA and China with respect to China’s sovereignty over Taiwan.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- India initially for a long period accepted the One China policy, now India's stand is : For India to agree to a one-China policy, China should reaffirm a one-India policy</li></ul> <p><b>Water disputes</b></p> <p>The construction of several dams along the Brahmaputra River (known as Yarlung in <b>China</b>) on the Chinese side has become a repeated cause of concern for India.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Degradation of the Basin as dams leading to a fall in the quality of soil and eventual reduction in agricultural productivity</li><li>- Threats to Flora and Fauna: Brahmaputra basin is one of the world's most ecologically sensitive zones and is identified as one of the world's 34 biological hotspots</li><li>- The location of the dams also poses a risk as the Himalayas are one of the most vulnerable to earthquakes and seismic activity.</li><li>- Damming this perennial river would result in water security in an era of unprecedented shifting climate patterns.</li><li>- Strategic Implications: There is the potential to significantly change the flow rate during times of standoffs and high tensions.</li></ul>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Pakistan</b>	
	<p><b>Evolution of relationship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Phase of active aggression (1947 - 2001)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Indian sub-continent saw its largest human migrations</li><li>o first India-Pakistan war over Kashmir in 1947</li><li>o In 1965, two countries fought their second war.</li><li>o Liberation of Bangladesh and India's involvement</li><li>o Operation Meghdoot in 1984</li><li>o insurgency in Kashmir Valley in 1980s and 1990s</li><li>o In 1998, Both had tested their nuclear weapon capabilities</li><li>o the Kargil War in 1999</li><li>o 2001 - Indian Parliament attack</li></ul></li><li>- Phase of reconciliation (2001-2008)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o This phase's seed was sowed during Lahore Declaration saw the start of Delhi Lahore Bus Service in 1999</li><li>o insaniyat (humanism), jamhooriyat (democracy) and kashmiriyat (Kashmir's legacy of amity)</li><li>o The year 2004, saw the beginning of the Composite Dialogue Process</li><li>o India joined TAPI pipeline</li><li>o This phase ended with Mumbai terror attack</li></ul></li><li>- Phase of renewed aggression (2008 - 2019)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Both countries were engaged in proving and rebutting the source of Mumbai attacks.</li><li>o 'surgical strike' inside PoK and to the Pulwama attack by carrying out the Balakot airstrike in Pakistan</li></ul></li></ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ China and Pakistan signed the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) infrastructural project in 2015 which passes through the PoK.</li> <li>○ Pathankot attack (2016), Nagrota attack (2016), Uri attack (2016), Amarnath yatra attack (2017) and finally the Pulwama attack in 2019.</li> <li>○ India responded to the Uri attack by carrying out a revoking the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan</li> <li>○ Pakistan launched a global diplomatic campaign to attract international support for Pakistan's position on Kashmir after abrogation of Article 370.</li> </ul> <p><b>Issues with Pakistan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kashmir conundrum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The tug of war over Kashmir represented the contest between identities of two nations.</li> <li>○ While Pakistan <b>tries to alter status quo</b> 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.</li> <li>○ Human rights issue in the POK</li> <li>○ Doctrine of <b>'bleeding India with a thousand cuts'</b> through Infiltration of terrorists and radicalization of youth</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Boundary dispute and water dispute <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Siachen glacier dispute</li> <li>○ Pakistan occupied Kashmir</li> <li>○ Sir creek dispute</li> <li>○ Indus water treaty and dams associated with it</li> <li>○ CPEC violates India's territorial integrity as it goes through Gilgit Baltistan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Other issues capture of fishermen, drug smuggling from the Golden Crescent, fake Indian currencies sneaking through the western borders also loom large.</li> </ul>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	
	<p><b>Co-operation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sri Lanka is among the major recipients of development assistance from the Government of India</li> <li>- 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</li> <li>- Sri Lankan military personnel are trained by India.</li> <li>- Joint military training exercise between Indian Army and Sri Lankan Army is known as <b>'Mitra Shakti'</b>.</li> <li>- <u>In January, 2021, India sent a batch of 500,000 COVID-19 vaccines to Sri Lanka.</u></li> </ul>	



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	<p><b>Issues in relation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- China has extended billions of dollars of loans to the Sri Lankan government, which is a case of concern</li> <li>- Fall of Hambantota to China's cheque book diplomacy</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recent economic crisis in Sri Lanka</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sri Lanka's budget deficits were high during the war and the global financial crisis of 2008</li> <li>- Easter bomb blasts of April 2019 in churches dropped the number of tourists sharply</li> <li>- Populist policies like <b>lower tax rates and wide-ranging SoPs for farmers</b></li> <li>- Due to covid, Exports of tea, rubber, spices and garments suffered.</li> <li>- The overnight shift to organic fertilisers heavily impacted food production.</li> </ul> <p><b>India's assistance to Sri Lanka during this crisis:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- USD 1.4 billion - a USD 400 currency swap</li> <li>- a USD 500 loan deferment.</li> <li>- a USD 500 Line of Credit for fuel imports.</li> <li>- India extended a USD 1 billion short-term concessional loan for procurement of essentials</li> <li>- Lately, again India has extended an "unprecedented support of over \$3.8 billion"</li> </ul>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Bangladesh(50 years of liberation)</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- India played a great role in the emergence of independent Bangladesh.</li> <li>- India was also the first state to recognize Bangladesh as a separate nation.</li> <li>- In the last decades, India-Bangladesh relations have warmed up, entering a <b>new era of cooperation</b>, and moving beyond historical and cultural ties to become more assimilated in the areas of trade, connectivity, energy, and defence.</li> </ul> <p><b>Bangladesh growth model</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bangladesh's GDP growth in 2019 was 8.4% - maintained a positive growth rate even during the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>- Its GDP per capita is around \$2,000 which is almost equal to India.</li> </ul> <p>What aided Bangladesh growth model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Focus on the intensive manufacturing sector:</b> Its GDP growth is directly connected with the growth in the textiles and garments industry.</li> <li>- Got benefitted from <b>preferential trade treatments</b> with the European Union, Canada, Australia, and Japan with negligible or zero tax.</li> </ul>	

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- **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 contributes to more than 50% of India's revenue from medical tourism.

#### **Connectivity**

- **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.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Kolkata-Dhaka-Agartala Bus Service</b> also launched in 2015.</li> <li>- Recently, the Indian Prime Minister also inaugurated the 'Maitri Setu' bridge. (connects Sabroom in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh)</li> <li>- Border Haats</li> <li>- Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT).</li> <li>- Agreed to an early operationalization of the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) initiative Motor Vehicles Agreement through the expeditious signing of the Enabling MoU</li> <li>- Bangladesh - Important component in Act East Policy</li> </ul> <p><b>Border management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Largest land border</li> <li>- The India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) came into force following the exchange of instruments of ratification in June 2015.</li> </ul> <p><b>Irritants / Friction Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Teesta river water dispute</li> <li>- Illegal Migration issue</li> <li>- NRC in Assam and its after impacts</li> <li>- Issue of Drug Trafficking, Human Trafficking, Cattle Smuggling</li> <li>- Rohingyas from Bangladesh into India</li> </ul>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Afghanistan</b>	
	<p><b>Intro:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Historical and cultural links - India's role in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan.</li> </ul> <p>Body:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- India's <b>Strategic Partnership Agreement</b> → to assist in building indigenous Afghan capacity and institutions. \$650-750 million worth of humanitarian and economic aid.</li> <li>- Covers 4 broad areas → infrastructure projects, humanitarian assistance, small and community based development projects, and education and capacity development.</li> <li>- Eg: Afghan-India Friendship Dam; Shahtoot Dam and drinking water project; inauguration of the newly built Afghan Parliament; polyclinic in Mazar-e-Sharif.</li> <li>- Political Relations: Operation Enduring Freedom → India provided intelligence and logistic support for the Allied forces.</li> <li>- logistic support for the Allied forces.</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges for India:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Difficulty in recognising the <b>Taliban regime</b> → imposed through the use of military force.</li> </ol> <p>3 critical areas in dealing with the Taliban.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Protecting its investments in Afghanistan</li> <li>b. preventing a future Taliban regime from being a pawn of Rawalpindi;</li> </ol>	

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	<p>c. making sure that the Pakistan-backed anti-India terrorist groups do not get support from the Taliban.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Threat of <b>radicalisation</b>.</li> <li>3. New regional geopolitical alignments (such as China-Pakistan-Taliban).</li> <li>4. 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.</li> </ol> <p><b>Prospects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Immediate goal → safety and security of its personnel and investments.</li> <li>- long-term goal → finding a political solution to the crisis.</li> <li>- Peaceful Afghan is essential to address the energy needs of India → Broader Diplomatic Engagement.</li> <li>- Decoupling of Taliban-Pakistan.</li> <li>- provide more military training to Afghan security forces and invest in longer-term capacity-building programs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>India has to work with Eurasian powers to protect its interests and stabilise Afghanistan. If India remains active and patient too, many opportunities could open up in the new Afghan phase.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Nepal</b>	
	<p><b>Areas of Cooperation</b></p> <p><b>Defence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assisting the Nepal Army (NA) in its modernization by supplying <b>equipment</b> and providing training.</li> <li>- The 'Indo-Nepal Battalion-level Joint Military Exercise <b>SURYA KIRAN</b>' is conducted alternately in India and in Nepal.</li> <li>- The Gorkha regiments of the Indian Army</li> </ul> <p><b>Economic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- India is the largest trading partner of Nepal (Bilateral Trade – US\$ 8.27 bn) and provides employment to 8mn Nepalese</li> <li>- Indian firms are among the largest investors in Nepal, accounting for more than 30% of the total approved FDIs</li> </ul> <p><b>Connectivity and development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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</li> <li>- Establishment of Integrated Check Posts at Birgunj, Biratnagar, Bhairahawa, and Nepalgunj.</li> <li>- The total economic assistance earmarked under 'Aid to Nepal' budget in FY 2019-20 was INR 1200 crore.</li> <li>- the 'India- Nepal New Partnership in Agriculture' was launched</li> <li>- BBIN</li> </ul>	

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### **Energy Cooperation**

- 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.

### **Education and Culture**

- Scholarships to students , strong cultural links

### **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.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Empowerment of Madhesis:</b> Their political empowerment through a democratic dispensation is important to India because any unrest there will spill over into our country.</li> </ul>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>South Asia</b>	
	<p><b>Neighbourhood first policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Immediate priority to neighbours:</b> as peace and tranquillity in South Asia is essential for realizing development agenda.</li> <li>- <b>Dialogue:</b> 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.</li> <li>- <b>Resolving bilateral issues:</b> through mutual agreement. Eg: India and Bangladesh have signed a pact to operationalise the historic Land Boundary Agreement (LBA).</li> <li>- <b>Connectivity:</b> 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.</li> <li>- <b>Economic Cooperation:</b> It focuses on enhancing trade ties with neighbours. India has participated and invested in <b>SAARC</b> as a vehicle for development in the region. One such example is the <b>Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) grouping</b> for energy development i.e. <b>motor vehicles, waterpower management and inter-grid connectivity</b>.</li> <li>- <b>Technical Cooperation:</b> Recently a dedicated SAARC - share the fruits of the technology like <b>tele-medicine, e-learning etc. with the people across South Asia</b>.</li> <li>- <b>Disaster management:</b> 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 <b>assistance to its neighbour Nepal</b> in the aftermath of the 2016</li> <li>- <b>Military and defence cooperation:</b> India is also focusing on deepening security in the region through military cooperation. Various exercises like <b>Surya Kiran</b> with Nepal, <b>Sampriti with Bangladesh</b> aim to strengthen <b>defence relations</b>. Also, India has committed to play a greater role in capacity building of the Afghan National Army by providing training to them.</li> </ul> <p><b>Some initiatives under Neighbourhood first policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- India and Bangladesh have signed a pact to operationalise the historic Land Boundary Agreement (LBA).</li> <li>- India pledging a \$2 billion Line of Credit for Bangladesh, the largest single LOC(line of credit) for any country committed by India.</li> <li>- BIMSTEC, BBIN initiative.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>	

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- India always support the democratic institution of any country.

### **BIMSTEC(charter finalized)**

- Fifth summit took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka – Signing of BIMSTEC Charter
- members were expected to meet **once every two years.**
- With the Charter, the **BIMSTEC now has an international personality**
- It has a formally **listed purpose and principles**
- the leaders of the member-countries have agreed to divide the working of the grouping into seven segments, with India providing leadership to the security pillar.
- Master Plan for Transport Connectivity that would provide a **framework for regional and domestic connectivity.**

### **SAARC Revival**

#### **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"> <li>- <b>All-of South Asia Approach:</b> South Asian countries need to work as a collective to set common standards and promote a more intra-regional system</li> <li>- India can carry out infrastructure projects to improve connectivity, and improve people-to-people exchanges.</li> </ul> <p><b>Roadblocks in securing a friendly neighbourhood</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Unstable Afghanistan: Fragile within and facing state-sponsored external threat from Pakistan, a possible state collapse would spawn jihadist terrorism in all directions</li> <li>- China: China's policy towards Pakistan, including the construction of the Gwadar port. Also, China-Pakistan economic corridor running through POK.</li> </ul> <p>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</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>USA</b>	
	<p><b>Changing geopolitical equation with India</b>[from being estranged democracies (during Cold War) to Strategic Partners]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improving cooperation: <b>2+2</b> Ministerial dialogues, response to Covid-19 and relations improving at both levels- at the <b>strategic elite</b> as well as at the <b>people-to-people level</b>.</li> <li>- America's <b>renewed interest in Indo-Pacific</b> with the rise of China and India is becoming a <b>reliable strategic partner</b> in the region. <b>Changing USA-Pakistan ties</b> – losing a nuclear powered ally to China.</li> <li>- From ordering sanctions against India after 1998 nuclear test to becoming a supporter of for India's permanent membership in UNSC and early membership in NSG.</li> <li>- <b>Strategic Energy Partnership:</b> Established Joint Clean Energy R&amp;D Centre and a priority initiative under <b>PACE</b>(Partnership to Advance Clean Energy). Civil Nuclear Cooperation signed in 2008.</li> <li>- Indian diaspora and cultural cooperation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Military Cooperation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Four agreements covering military information(<b>GSOMIA</b>), logistics exchange(<b>LEMOA</b>), communications security(<b>COMCASA</b>) and exchange cooperation(<b>BECA</b>) between two countries.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Cyber security cooperation.</li> <li>- UAV Technology sale to India approved. After India designated as USA's major defence partner.</li> </ul>	



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	<p><b>USA-China relations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Trade war</b> and deteriorating relations with China: USA asserted that a “<b>strong India</b>” in cooperation with like-minded countries, would act as a counterbalance to China in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.</li> <li>- Supporting India’s reservations <b>against China’s BRI</b>: USA seeks the transparent infrastructure-debt practices in the countries facing debt due to Chinese financing under BRI.</li> </ul> <p><b>Issues with trade and other challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- US is India’s <b>largest export destination</b> and second largest trading partner. But facing a <b>mini trade war</b> as USA withdrew special trade privileges for India under Generalised System of Preferences.</li> <li>- US complaining about India’s high tariff barrier and complex customs clearance procedures causing delays and increased cost.</li> <li>- Cap on <b>H-1B visas</b> (popular among IT professionals), would inhibit Indian works moving to US.</li> <li>- E-commerce policy of India was called “most discriminatory and trade-distortive” by the US.</li> <li>- USA has criticised India’s Data Localisation Policy: Says India’s requirements would severely hike the cost of American companies operating in India.</li> <li>- Iranian oil sanctions: No waiver for India to import oil from Iran.</li> <li>- India’s dependence on Russia’s defence equipment: According to <b>CAATSA</b> 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.</li> <li>- Other issues like alleged IPR violations and USA’s exit from Afghanistan also have damaged the relationship between India and the US.</li> </ul>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Russia (50years Indo-Soviet Treaty)</b>	
	<p><b>Intro:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their diplomatic relations and 50 years of Indo-Soviet Treaty.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategic importance of relations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Enhanced levels of cooperation</b> in almost all areas of the bilateral relationships including political, security, defence, trade and economy, science and technology, and culture.</li> <li>- India-Russia military-technical cooperation has <b>evolved from a buyer-seller framework</b> 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 <b>flagship cooperation</b>.</li> <li>- <b>S-400 deal</b> strengthens India’s defence capacities.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enduring symbol of friendship seen in: Space: Peaceful Use, Navigation, Satellite Manned Mission Training→Nuclear Energy- Kudankulam</li> </ul> <p><b>Irritants in the Ties:</b></p> <p><b>Proximity to the USA:</b> Russia continues to mistrust US, principally because of the expansion of NATO towards its borders. → India QUAD membership.</p> <p><b>Russia - China Bonhomie:</b> Both share Anti- American foreign policy and a vision for a multi-polar world. • Russia's economy critically depends on oil &amp; gas exports. China being the largest importer of oil &amp; gas is a big market for Russia's exports. Russia supports BRI, China supports Russia in War.</p> <p><b>Russia -Pakistan angle;</b> Increasing closeness between Russia and Pakistan. Russia and Pakistan have indulged in defence exercises (Friendship 2020). Especially in Afghan Situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Russia's changing foreign policy (Pakistan, China and Taliban)- <b>Troika Plus</b>→Pak seen as <b>Zipper State</b></li> <li>-CAATSA sanctions (Waiver but still uncertain)</li> </ul>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Russia-Ukraine War</b>	
	<p><b>Implications!!</b></p> <p><b>Global Economy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Humanitarian crisis:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 Million Refugees, 15k Deaths→</li> </ul> <p><b>Security:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cyber conflicts, Nuclear disasters- Zaphorizha Plant</li> </ul> <p><b>Geopolitics→</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Divide of East vs West, Nord Stream, Tensions→NATO</li> </ul> <p><b>Implications on India and India's stance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- India abstained vote in UNSC, UNGA.</li> <li>- India's tightrope walk→ Strategic Ambivalence→Calibrated choice of Neutrality drives by concerns vis a vis China and Pakistan</li> </ul> <p><b>Why?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Russia is a dependable Partner→ eg: 1971, Indo- Pak War, Indo-Chinese war, Nuclear tests Sanctions at all times Russia stood loyal</li> </ul> <p><b>Indian Economy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food Inflation: Sunflower oil (80% From this region)→Wheat (30% Exports)→Crude oil prices→ Gold (Russia 3<sup>rd</sup> exporter)</li> </ul>	

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	<p><b>Opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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 →</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Normandy and Minsk Agreements.</b> NATO expansion will only lead to fueling of tensions.</li> </ul>	
<b>11.</b>	<b>India – Japan Relations</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2022 marks the 70th anniversary of India-Japan diplomatic relations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Background</b></p> <p><b>During ancient times</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rooted in spiritual affinity &amp; strong cultural/civilizational ties. In 6<sup>th</sup> century -&gt; Buddhism introduced to Japan -&gt; Indian culture filtered &amp; impacted Japanese culture.</li> <li>- In 752 A.D consecration of towering statue of Lord Buddha in Todaji Temple (Nara) -&gt; performed by Indian monk, Bodhisena.</li> </ul> <p><b>During Colonial times</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Japan-India Association in 1903 -&gt; Oldest international friendship body in Japan.</li> <li>- Japanese soil -&gt; used by Indian revolutionary Rash Bihari Bose -&gt; to fight against British rule to liberate India.</li> </ul> <p><b>After Independence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Signed peace treaty &amp; established diplomatic relations in 1952.</li> <li>- India's "East Asia Policy" &amp; Japan's "Free &amp; Open Indo-Pacific Vision" -&gt; cemented the bond.</li> <li>- India's nuclear weapons test at Pokaran in 1998 -&gt; Japan, being victim of two atomic bombs -&gt; condemned.</li> <li>- "Global Partnership for India &amp; Japan for 21<sup>st</sup> Century" signed in 2000 -&gt; Upgrade in 2006 -&gt; "Global &amp; Strategic Partnership" -&gt; In 2014, ameliorated further to "Special Strategic and Global Partnership".</li> </ul> <p><b>Bilateral Trade and economic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Both signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in 2011.</li> <li>- Japan -&gt; one of the biggest investors in India &amp; 12<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Trade between both -&gt; \$16.95 billion in FY 2019-20.</li> <li>- Key merchandise: Petroleum products, textiles, Iron ore, Fish &amp; fish products.</li> <li>- Important imports from Japan: Electronic goods, Automobile parts &amp; Steel products</li> <li>- Recently India, Australia &amp; Japan launched -&gt; Supply Chain Resilience Initiative -&gt; to counter China.</li> </ul>	

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- Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) -> to deepen economic relations.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
- 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.

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	<p><b>Way Forward</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Japan's ageing economy -&gt; can be sustained by India's young demography.</li> <li>- Both -&gt; champions of freedom, transnational morals/rules, inclusivity, free &amp; fair trade.</li> <li>- Both countries can together help keep China in check.</li> <li>- Japan -&gt; source of further capital investment in India.</li> <li>- Boosting trade &amp; investment -&gt; be balanced with lesser strategic collaboration.</li> </ul>	
<b>12.</b>	<b>India- EU</b>	
	<p><b>Intro:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Geopolitical tensions- USA, RUSSIA, CHINA Axis→ India needs to strengthen ties with EU.</li> </ul> <p><b>Upgraded to Strategic Relations since 2004.</b></p> <p><b>Why EU Important? (New Delhi- Brussels)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Common Ideology→Political Democracy, Civil Liberties→ Rules Based Order</li> <li>- Trade: 3<sup>rd</sup> largest After USA and China- 90 bn \$.</li> <li>- EU countries like France Support India's permanent Seat.</li> <li>- Convergence in Climate Issues</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategic Relations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EU is wary of growing Chinese influence in INDO-PACIFIC and is keen to support India along the US.</li> <li>- <b>Global Gateway programme</b>→counterfoil for BRI</li> <li>- Trade: <b>BTIA</b>→ <b>long pending</b>, Phytosanitary Measures, Tariffs, India's goods and services underutilised.</li> </ul> <p><b>Generalised System of Preferences.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Knowledge and Education cooperation</li> <li>- But unmet and unmatched potential</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With growth of threatening <b>Chinese Presence in World Arena and Unpredictable Russia</b>, 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.</li> </ul>	
<b>13.</b>	<b>UK</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- India-UK relationship has been on an upward trajectory, exemplified by the conclusion of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2021.</li> </ul> <p><b>Brexit and India</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- India’s businesses based in the U.K. will be hampered as till now they had border-free access to the rest of Europe.</li> </ul> <p><b>Significance of UK-India relationship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Colonial prism: Post-colonial resentments, consequences of partition,</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Britain’s domestic politics: The Labour Party (historically empathetic towards India) has become rather hostile on India’s internal matters, including on Kashmir.</li> <li>- Trade barriers: After Brexit, India needs to sign a bilateral agreement with UK for trade facilitation.</li> <li>- Chinese influence: UK has engaged substantially in China’s BRI.</li> </ul> <p><b>Way Forward</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>	
<b>14.</b>	<b>Australia</b>	
	<p><b>Areas of cooperation and significance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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</li> </ul>	

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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, Australia-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.

### ETCA:

- 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.
- 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.

### Challenges

- **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.

### Way forward:

- 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

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	<p>policies is a glue that will bind India and Australia further in the coming years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The two will likely also expand their partnership both in pursuing strategic partnerships and thematic ones like supply chain resilience initiative.</li> <li>- The two will likely also expand their partnership both in pursuing strategic partnerships and thematic ones like supply chain resilience initiative.</li> </ul>	
<b>15.</b>	<b>ASEAN</b>	
	<p><b>Act East Policy of India</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>India’s initiatives to strengthen the Act East Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agartala-Akhaura Rail Link between India and Bangladesh</li> <li>- Intermodal transport linkages and inland waterways through Bangladesh.</li> <li>- 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</li> <li>- The Trilateral Highway Project connecting the North East with Myanmar and Thailand.</li> <li>- Under India-Japan Act East Forum, projects such as Road and Bridges and modernization of Hydro-electric power projects have been undertaken.</li> <li>- Among other initiatives assistance has been extended in the form of medicines/medical supplies to ASEAN countries during the pandemic.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>	



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- 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 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 e.g. 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-

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	<p>emptive of other countries' efforts to control the Indian Ocean.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>	
<b>16.</b>	<b>AFRICA</b>	
	<p><b><u>Evolution of relationship</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The presence of Indians in East Africa documented in the 'Periplus of the Erythraean Sea(60AD)</li> <li>- Political connection during the colonial era was linked through M.K Gandhi (Indian Natal Congress in 1894 at south Africa.)</li> <li>- End of racial struggle and decolonization became the rallying point of India–Africa relations.</li> <li>- Important groupings: Bandung Declaration of 1955, the Group of 77, and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).</li> <li>- Mutual trust and confidence born in the difficult days of the Cold War which continues to drive India-Africa cooperation to this day.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Africa's growth and India's opportunities</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dozens of developing countries makes Africa, one of the growth poles of the world</li> <li>- Real GDP in Africa in the past decade <b>has grown by more than twice</b> since 1980's</li> <li>- African continent has a population of over one billion with a combined GDP of 2.5 trillion dollars making it a <b>huge potential market</b></li> <li>- Africa is a <b>resource rich nation</b> dominated by commodities like crude oil, gas, pulses and lentils, leather, gold and other metals. (India lacks all these)</li> <li>- Africa can play an important role in India's energy matrix. (Diversifying oil market)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>India's Aid programmes:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$1 billion in technical assistance under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)</li> <li>- As a full member of African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), India has pledged \$1 million towards ACBF's sustainable development</li> <li>- Pan-African E-Network to bridge the digital divide in Africa</li> <li>- Asian Africa Growth Corridor which is jointly prepared by Indian and Japanese think tanks.</li> <li>- India's African Union's under long-term plan and the Africa Agenda 2063.</li> </ul>	

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	<p><b><u>Challenges</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ethnic and religious conflicts inside Africa make foreign contributors aversive to venture</li> <li>- Since cold war, China providing soft loans to African states which has resulted in Chinese growing influence in the continent.</li> <li>- India's substantive presence in Africa has remained marginal</li> <li>- India has no coordinated Africa policy</li> </ul>	
<b>17.</b>	<b>SAUDI AND WEST ASIA</b>	
	<p><b><u>UAE – India CEPA</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trade-in Goods: India will benefit from preferential market access provided by the UAE, especially for all labor-intensive sectors.</li> <li>- <b>Trade-in Services: Both India and UAE</b> have offered each other market access to the <b>broad service sectors.</b></li> <li>- <b>Trade-in Pharmaceuticals:</b> Both sides have also agreed to a separate Annex on Pharmaceuticals to facilitate access to Indian pharmaceuticals products.</li> <li>- Indian exporters will also get access to the much larger Arab and African markets.</li> <li>- CEPA will lead to an increase in bilateral trade from the current \$60 bn to \$100 bn in the next 5 years.</li> </ul> <p><b>SAUDI – INDIA RELATIONSHIP</b></p> <p><u>Significance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saudi Arabia is currently India's second-largest supplier of crude oil</li> <li>- Saudi Arabia's a role in the creation of Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPRs) at Padur in Karnataka.</li> <li>- Saudi Arabia is <b>India's fourth largest trade partner</b></li> <li>- The 2.6 million-strong Indian community in Saudi Arabia is the largest expatriate community in the Kingdom</li> <li>- <b>Haj pilgrimage</b> is another important component of bilateral relations between India and Saudi Arabia.</li> <li>- Both started their first-ever Naval joint exercise called the Al-Mohed Al-Hindi Exercise.</li> </ul> <p><u>Challenges:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The politics of the Middle East are complex and multidimensional.</li> <li>- The Saudi Arabia-Turkey rivalry is one of the dimensions.</li> <li>- Another dimension is the Saudi Arabia-Iran rivalry.</li> <li>- Emerging western QUAD (India – Israel – UAE – USA)</li> <li>- India's informal workers working conditions in Saudi Arabia</li> </ul> <p><b><u>OIC and India</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The OIC is the <b>second largest intergovernmental organisation</b> after the United Nations with a membership of 57 states and acts as a collective voice of Muslims.</li> <li>- As a country with the <b>world's second largest Muslim community</b>, India had been invited to the founding</li> </ul>	

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	<p>conference at Rabat in 1969, but was ejected at Pakistan's behest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Later, India stayed away due to 2 reasons             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) It did not want to join an <b>organisation founded on religion</b>.</li> <li>ii) There was the risk that improving bilateral relations with individual member states would come under pressure in a grouping, <b>especially on issues such as Kashmir</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- In 2019, India made its maiden appearance at the OIC Foreign Ministers' meeting, as a "guest of honour". It is a diplomatic victory.</li> <li>- In 2021, the OIC has called on the UN Human Rights Council to take "<b>necessary measures</b>" on the issue of Muslim girl students being told not to wear the hijab in Karnataka schools.</li> <li>- India criticised OIC for being "<b>communal minded</b>" and "hijacked by vested interests" – a thinly veiled reference to Pakistan.</li> <li>- The OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir that lasting peace in South Asia cannot be achieved without a settlement of the <b>Kashmir issue</b>. India is firm on its position that Kashmir is an internal problem of India. OIC has no locus standi in it.</li> </ul>	
<b>18.</b>	<b>IRAN</b>	
	<p><u>Significance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Iran is located at strategic and crucial <b>geographical location</b> between the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea</li> <li>- it provides an <b>alternate route</b> of connectivity to Afghanistan and Central Asian republics,</li> <li>- It sits on <b>one of the largest deposits of crude oil and natural gas</b> in the world. ( 2nd-largest reserves of natural gas)</li> <li>- Iran was the largest supplier of <b>crude oil</b> before the US sanction.</li> </ul> <p><u>JCPOA restoration and India's impact:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Restoration of ties between the US and Iran will help India to <b>procure cheap Iranian oil</b> and aid in energy security. (India imports now is nil due to CAATSA)</li> <li>- Removing sanctions may revive India's interest in the <b>Chabahar</b> option, Bandar Abbas port, and other plans for regional connectivity.</li> <li>- This would further help India to <b>neutralize</b> the <b>Chinese</b> presence in Gwadar port, Pakistan.</li> <li>- Renewed <b>interests</b> on International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), which runs through Iran, which connects with five Central Asian republics, may also get a boost.</li> </ul> <p><u>Chabahar port:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Boost trade ties, diplomatic ties, and <b>military ties</b> with Iran.</li> <li>- Provides India with better connectivity to <b>Afghanistan</b> bypassing Pakistan.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It will be the gateway to the <b>INSTC</b> which is a combination of road, rail, and sea routes connecting Russia, Europe, Central Asia, Iran, and India.</li> <li>- India can carry out <b>humanitarian operations</b> from this port if the need arises.</li> <li>- This port is just 170 km away from <b>Gwadar port</b> operated by China in Pakistan, hence this port would be of strategic importance to the Indian Navy and defense establishment</li> </ul>	
<b>19.</b>	<b>ISRAEL</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diplomatic ties only around 1992 – India is third largest trade partner of Israel in Asia and seventh globally</li> <li>- has several ties in agriculture,</li> <li>- India the largest buyer of military equipment</li> <li>- counter terrorism and defence.</li> <li>- Israel Palestine issue – De-hyphenated policy – balancing act by India – India favoured UNSC</li> <li>- resolution in 2015 to probe human rights violation in Gaza however abstained in voting against</li> <li>- Israel – Recent years India stopped supporting Palestine at UN</li> <li>- Concerns – poor connectivity – Israel aligning with Saudi Arabia and China – Long pending</li> <li>- FTA yet to be signed</li> </ul>	
<b>20.</b>	<b>India - South Korea Relations</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Today, India-South Korea Relations -&gt; witnessing substantial growth -&gt; as both have similar ambition, values &amp; dimensions =&gt; &amp; both are in process of strengthening their defence, political, economic &amp; cultural sectors.</li> <li>- Areas of Co-operation</li> </ul> <p><b>Political / Diplomatic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- During Korean War (1950- 53) -&gt; India played a major role in a cease-fire agreement signed between North &amp; South Korea.</li> <li>- In 2015 -&gt; bilateral relationship was upgraded to ‘Special Strategic Partnership’.</li> <li>- South Korea’s “New Southern Policy” -&gt; searches stronger diplomatic stand on imminent regional issues &amp; to expand relations beyond its alliance/region -&gt; India has a major role to play.</li> <li>- South Korea is a practical element of India’s Act East Policy -&gt; promoting economic, cultural &amp; strategic relationships in Asia-Pacific.</li> </ul> <p><b>Regional Stability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- India, S. Korea -&gt; regional tensions with China -&gt; create a common interest.</li> </ul> <p><b>Nuclear</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- South Korea’s key interest in managing their nuclear neighbour (North Korea) -&gt; is similar to India’s considerations toward Pakistan.</li> <li>- Containing North Korea -&gt; beneficial to India’s economic &amp; regional ambit in East Asia.</li> </ul>	

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	<p><b>Economic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current bilateral trade between both -&gt; \$ 21 billion; Target -&gt; \$ 50 billion by 2030.</li> <li>- India is among 10 trade partners of South Korea &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> largest destination for Korean goods.</li> <li>- Both signed -&gt; Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), 2010 -&gt; to improve trade relations.</li> <li>- To facilitate investment from Korea -&gt; India launched a "Korea Plus" facilitation cell under 'Invest India' -&gt; to guide, assist &amp; handhold investors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cultural</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Korean Buddhist Monk Hyecho or Hong Jiao -&gt; visited India (723 to 729 AD) &amp; wrote the travelogue "Pilgrimage to the five kingdoms of India" -&gt; gives a vivid account of Indian culture, politics &amp; society.</li> <li>- Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore composed 'Lamp of the East' in 1929 -&gt; about Korea's glorious past &amp; its promising bright future.</li> </ul> <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stagnation in Economic relationship -&gt; struck at \$22 billion annually.</li> <li>- Defence partnership -&gt; receded from great all-round promise to mere sale &amp; purchase of weapon systems.</li> <li>- Cultural prejudices/discrimination on both sides -&gt; preventing people-to-people ties.</li> <li>- Indians -&gt; unable to distinguish between cultural/social characteristics of South Koreans -&gt; from Japanese/Chinese.</li> <li>- Unfulfilled potential of Cultural Centres =&gt; Indian Culture Centre (ICC) established in Seoul 10 years ago -&gt; to promote people-to-people contacts -&gt; has to reach wider audience &amp; beyond the urban, English-speaking elite of Seoul =&gt; same with South Korean culture centres in India.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- India-Republic of Korea (RoK) relations -&gt; has made great strides in recent years &amp; become truly multidimensional -&gt; spurred by significant convergence of interests, mutual goodwill &amp; high-level exchanges.</li> </ul>	
<b>21.</b>	<b>INDIA &amp; CENTRAL ASIA RELATIONS</b>	
	<p><b>Location:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.</li> <li>- Strategic location between Asia, Europe</li> </ul> <p><b>Economic Ties:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "New Great Game" played out in the Central Asian Region →</li> <li>- TAPI pipeline for energy demand</li> <li>- lack of physical connectivity -hurdle in building trade and economic ties.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- INSTC is a multi-modal infrastructure network of ship, rail and road routes for transporting freight and link with Chabahar port</li> <li>- Central Asia has abundant natural resources, including petroleum, natural gas(Turkmenistan) and uranium(Uzbekistan), and abundant deposits of fertilizer inputs such as potash.</li> <li>- These sectors are increasingly service-oriented they could benefit from India's expertise in IT &amp; IT-enabled services.</li> <li>- Tajikistan-- huge hydroelectric potential</li> <li>- Demand for Indian pharmaceutical products in the region.</li> <li>- Contract between Department of Atomic Energy of India and JSC National atomic company "KazAtomProm" for sale and purchase of natural uranium concentrates.</li> </ul> <p><b>International cooperation and organizations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)</li> <li>- Eurasian Economic Union (EEU)</li> <li>- India has proposed setting up of '<b>India-Central Asia Development Group</b>' to take forward development partnership between India &amp; Central Asian countries</li> <li>- Need Connect Central Asia policy</li> </ul> <p><b>Internal security:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proximity to Golden crescent</li> </ul> <p><b>Defence ties:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- India's military base in Tajikistan- Farkhor base</li> <li>- Fergana Valley remains a hot spot of fundamentalism, serious threat from illegal drug trade from Afghanistan.</li> <li>- Uzbekistan civil nuclear agreement with India</li> </ul> <p><b>The China factor:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- China's One Belt One Road initiative .</li> <li>- Trade between China and Central Asia has increased</li> <li>- Resentment among Central Asians, as they provide little local employment: Chinese companies import workers from China</li> </ul>	
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<b>23.</b>	<b>QUAD, AUKUS and Indo – Pacific</b>	
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- QUAD – To check China's growing influence in the Indo-pacific – free and open Indo-pacific</li> <li>- Bolster security and prosperity</li> <li>- <b>AUKUS</b> – security/military alliance of Australia, UK and US to develop nuclear powered submarines for Australia</li> <li>- <b>common interest</b> with QUAD in protecting Indo-pacific from China's dominance</li> <li>- QUAD <b>more broad themed</b> than AUKUS: QUAD includes a wide range of multilateral issues.</li> <li>- <b>France views AUKUS</b> a concern over the nuclear issue – Indo France Indo-pacific partnership encompasses defence, security, trade, investment etc.</li> <li>- Indo-Pacific economic framework (<b>IPEF</b>) – a QUAD initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- making Indo pacific an engine of global economic growth</li> <li>- supply chain resilience</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Partners in Blue Pacific initiative</b>-US and its allies + small island nations: support pacific islands to boost economic and diplomatic ties – elevate Pacific regionalism.</li> </ul> <p><b>Significance for India</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Economic cooperation and integration of likeminded countries</li> <li>- Checkmating China and emerging as a net security provider in the region</li> </ul>	-



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24.	BRICS
	<p><b>Significance of BRICS for India</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <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.</li> <li>- <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.</li> <li>- <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</li> <li>- <i>Terrorism</i>: A strong stand against terrorism and bring about focused consultations on specific aspects relating to terrorism.</li> </ul> <p><b>In Global Order</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BRICS countries' sizable contribution to global growth, trade, and investment make it an important pillar of global order.</li> <li>- <i>Financial</i>: 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.</li> <li>- <i>Security</i>: The US withdrawal from Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and Iran deal has posed a security threat</li> <li>- <i>Poverty Reduction</i>: 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</li> </ul> <p><b>Importance for India</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- India remains engaged with the other BRICS countries on its NSG membership.</li> <li>- An integral part of India's grand strategy - a vehicle in India's journey from being a norm taker to a norm shaper.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The marked dominance of big three Russia-China-India (RIC) is challenge for the BRICS as it moves ahead.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- The military standoff between India and China on the Doklam plateau and Ladakh - which has effectively brought to an end the naive notion</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Way Forward</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BRICS should promote comprehensive development of all states both big and small - enhanced mutually beneficial cooperation among them on the basis of shared interests.</li> <li>- A civil society dialogue is much needed.</li> <li>- BRICS nations should strive for peaceful and politico-diplomatic settlement of crisis and conflict in various regions of the world.</li> <li>- BRICS - one of the pillars of the emerging fairer polycentric world order - plays an important stabilising role in global affairs.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>	
<b>25.</b>	<b>G20 - Presidency of India</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An informal group of 19 countries &amp; the European Union (EU), with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank - does not have a permanent secretariat or Headquarters.</li> <li>- The membership comprises a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies, representing about two-thirds of the world's population, 80% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade.</li> <li>- Its members are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the EU.</li> <li>- The Italian Presidency in 2021 had focused on three broad, interconnected pillars of action — People, Planet, Prosperity</li> </ul>	

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— vowing to take the lead in ensuring a swift international response to the pandemic.

### **India's Presidency**

- India will steer the international body as its President from 1st December 2022 to 30th November 2023, which will lead to the G20 summit to be hosted here.
- The Secretariat will be functional till February 2024. It will also enable long term capacity building - including knowledge and expertise - for India's leadership on global issues in multilateral fora.
- Indonesia assumed the Presidency of G20 in December, 2021.

### **Challenges and India's Potential**

- India has - set a strong example as the only country among G20 nations - on track towards meeting what it had promised in 2015 Paris Agreement - being the only 2 degree Celsius compatible country - much ahead as compared to other G20 countries
- Concurrently, India's leadership role in delineating the success of India-France - led International Solar Alliance is globally well acclaimed - as a turning point intervention in mobilising resources towards promoting research and development in renewable energy.
- Also, the vision of 'Self Reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat)' initiative - expected to play a transformational role for "New India" in the global paradigm - reliable pillar of world economy and global supply chains in the aftermath of Covid -19 crisis.
- India's endeavour of establishing the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure - comprising nine of the G20 nations amongst others provides new dimensions of leadership in the global growth process.

### **Way Forward**

- G20 needs leaders with impeccable global credentials -With India to assume the Presidency in 2022 it has the opportunity to restore the world's faith in multilateralism.
- The emerging economies - along with the US - must make equitable vaccine rollout and patent waiver the number one priority for G20.
- The G20 must strengthen the partnership with international organisations such as the IMF, the OECD, the WHO, the World Bank and the WTO, - delegate them the task of monitoring progress.

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<b>26.</b>	<p><b>Other Areas</b></p> <p><b>I2U2: WEST ASIAN QUAD</b></p> <p><b>Background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I2U2 initially formed in 2021 -&gt; following the Abraham Accords between Israel &amp; UAE -&gt; to deal with issues concerning maritime security, infrastructure &amp; transport in the region -&gt; called as 'International Forum for Economic Cooperation' -&gt; referred as 'West Asian Quad'.</li> </ul> <p><b>About</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I2U2 initiative -&gt; new grouping of I2 (India, Israel), U2 (USA &amp; UAE) -&gt; will revitalize &amp; re-energize alliances/partnerships &amp; new partnerships around the world.</li> </ul> <p><b>Significance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Security Cooperation</b>=&gt; help countries in exploring security cooperation within the framework.</li> <li>- <b>Technological Hubs</b>=&gt; Each of these countries is a technological hub.</li> <li>- Offers an opportunity -&gt; to discuss <b>food security</b>.</li> <li>- Work Together in <b>Different Fields</b>: Technologies, trade, climate, fighting against Covid-19 &amp; security.</li> </ul> <p><b>Significance for India</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- India gets advantage of the Abraham Accords -&gt; to deepen engagement with Israel -&gt; without risking its ties with UAE &amp; other Arab states.</li> <li>- India -&gt; massive consumer market &amp; massive producer of high-tech &amp; highly sought-after goods as well -&gt; will benefit economically.</li> <li>- Help India -&gt; building alliances (political &amp; social)</li> </ul> <p><b>GEOPOLITICS OF OUTER SPACE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- India's interest/new strategies &amp; road to peace/stability in outer space.</li> </ul> <p><b>Space Geo-strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- US - Russia =&gt; traditional rivals in space sector.</li> <li>- Emerging China =&gt; spatial capabilities &amp; desire for foreign domination -&gt; both socially &amp; militarily -&gt; democratic powers, to protect their national interests &amp; sustainable order -&gt; reshapes Astro-politics.</li> </ul> <p><b>Importance for India</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Space -&gt; 4<sup>th</sup> possible arm of country's defence.</li> <li>- Space power means using space while denying reliable use to any enemy.</li> <li>- US, Russia &amp; China -&gt; forerunners of Space Force; India -&gt; need to be properly equipped -&gt; to deal emerging security challenges.</li> <li>- India's 1<sup>st</sup> military satellite -&gt; launched in 2013 only.</li> <li>- However, 'Mission Shakti' -&gt; shown India's ability to identify enemy satellites.</li> <li>- Newly formed DSA (Defence Space Agency) -&gt; be supported by DSRO (Defense Space Research Organization) -&gt; to develop</li> </ul>
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weapons to "degrade, disrupt, destroy or defraud an opponent's space".

### **Issues in Outdoor Space Geopolitics**

- 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.

### **Possibility of India's Outer Space Destiny**

- India-US Space MoU -> sharing of information & services -> ensuring long-term sustainability of space operations.
- 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.

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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. 'Indian **diaspora** has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries'. Comment with examples.
2. Critically examine the role of **WHO** in providing global health security during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. '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'.
4. "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
5. 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?
6. What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (**ECOSOC**)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it.
7. 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)
8. 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)
9. "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.
10. Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of **India's Look East Policy** in the context of the post-Cold War international scenario.
11. Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in **the UN Security Council**.
12. 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,

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

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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
- Eg CAATSA issues for India

### **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**

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- weaponized world, proliferation of nuclear weapons technology, appears to be a challenge with no immediate solution.</li> <li>- In such a scenario, India has no choice but to revise its nuclear weapons program and policy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- India's reliance on coal and crude oil remains high.</li> <li>- India's reliance on <b>oil and gas imports</b> has only grown over time.</li> <li>- Policy constrains regarding energy security.</li> </ul> <p><b>Food and Water</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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</li> <li>- Food security – WTO issues</li> </ul> <p><b>Terrorism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eliminating this global threat will be impossible without international cooperation. Cross border terrorism issues stalls regional integration and diplomacy</li> </ul> <p><b>Diplomacy</b></p> <p>India's miniscule presence in Latin American countries, Oceania</p>	
<b>28.</b>	<b>NAM</b>	
	<p><b>Evolution of NAM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The <b>Afro Asian Bandung Conference 1955</b>→later led to the establishment of the NAM.</li> <li>- The <b>first NAM Summit Conference</b>→Belgrade, <b>Yugoslavia, 1961.</b></li> <li>- It has <b>120 members</b> → majorly from third world countries</li> <li>- There are <b>17 countries and 10 international organizations</b> that are <b>Observers</b> at NAM.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Principles of NAM:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Respect for the principles enshrined in the charter of the United Nations and international law</li> <li>- Respect for sovereignty, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of all States.</li> <li>- Peaceful settlement of all international conflicts</li> </ul>	

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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><b>Relevance today and emerging global order</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>New Cold War</b> → between the US and China. This can be reflected in <b>Trade War, Quad initiative, Indo-pacific narrative, emergence of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation</b>, naval presence in the Indian ocean, etc.</li> <li>- <b>Neo-colonialism</b> → China's investment in Africa and Asia through its <b>Belt and Road initiative</b>, debt trap diplomacy in many LDCs</li> <li>- <b>Restructuring and democratization of the UN</b> → undemocratic representation, veto power of <b>permanent members in UNSC</b></li> <li>- <b>Combating Global Issues</b> → terrorism, weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), nuclear proliferation, ecological imbalance, safeguarding interests of developing countries in <b>WTO (World Trade Organization)</b> etc.</li> <li>- <b>Economic gap</b> between the first world and third world nations still exists</li> <li>- NAM continues to <b>hold relevance</b> to maintain world peace</li> <li>- Around two-third nations belong to the United Nations and represent almost 55% of world population, hence NAM has a <b>significant role to strengthen and support</b> to the UN</li> <li>- NAM acts as catalyst to <b>foster the co-operation</b> between <b>South-South nations</b></li> <li>- <b>Cultural diversity and human rights</b> –In the environment of gross <b>human right violation</b>, it can provide a platform to raise such issues and resolve the same through its principles.</li> <li>- NAM supported the concept of <b>sustainable development</b></li> <li>- The countries of NAM has inherent assets, such as a <b>favourable demography, demand and favourable location</b>. The cooperation can lead them to <b>higher and sustainable economic growth</b>.</li> </ul>	
29.	<b>Belt &amp; Road Initiative of China (BRI)</b>	
	<p><b>Intro:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- OBOR initiative was announced in 2013 by China - transcontinental long-term policy and investment program. with 126 countries and 29 international organisations as of now.</li> </ul>	

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- Mandate → address the infrastructural gap and accelerate potential economic growth across the Asia Pacific region, Africa and Eastern Europe

### **Body:**

#### **Objectives:**

- Creation of a unified large.
- Facilitate cultural exchange and integration
- Enhance mutual understanding and trust of member nations with capital inflows, talent pool and technology database.

5 cooperation priorities:

1. Policy coordination
2. Facilities connectivity
3. Unimpeded trade
4. Financial integration
5. People-to-people bonds

#### **Major Concerns about the OBOR**

- Chinese Monopoly in the Projects
  - o Most of the contracts (93%) have also gone to the state-owned enterprises in China.
  - o The host countries or other companies hardly have any role to play.
- Increased Corruption and Reduced Competition.
- Lack of Transparency and Environmental Concerns.
- Debt trap diplomacy.

India disapproved Belt and Road Initiative

1. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor through contentious Pok.
2. Lack of consultation.
3. The string of Pearls Theory.
4. countering India's strategies in North East region.

Benefits for India joining the BRI:

- Economic benefits such as a boost to trade, investment, and business engagement.
- direct access to Central Asia and Afghanistan.
- Improve 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.

#### **Conclusion:**

- BRI is particularly important in times of increasing protectionism across the world. Moreover, the political

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stability and regional cooperation in countries along BRI is also significant for the success of BRI.

### IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AGENCIES AND FORA - THEIR STRUCTURE, MANDATE

30.	<b>UN Reforms</b>	
	<p><b>Intro:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 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.</li></ul> <p><b>Why We need Reforms?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Expansion of Member states from 51 to 193</li><li>- Countries attained levels of Global Influence. Ex: India</li><li>- Functions are becoming multidimensional</li><li>- Questions on the legitimacy of UN</li><li>- Underrepresentation of Africa- Asia and Latin America.</li><li>- Misuse of VETO power by the P-5.</li></ul> <p><b>What reforms?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Expansion of UNSC- Both Permanent and Non -permanent Members need to increase</li><li>- New category within UNSC</li><li>- Revitalising UN in Development. More focus on UNECOSOC- Global Inequality</li><li>- Financial Reforms needed especially more transparency</li><li>- Strengthening Peace Keeping Forces.</li></ul> <p><b>Peace Agenda:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 1.Preventive Diplomacy 2.Post Conflict Rehabilitation 3. Arrangements for coordination 4. Efficacy of Sanctions</li></ul> <p><b>Does India Qualify to be part of Permanent Member?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Founding member→largest constant contributor of troops to United Nations Peacekeeping missions→ Upheld UN principles→ 5<sup>th</sup> largest Economy→ Global Initiatives→ International Yoga Day→ ISA→ CDRI</li><li>- India enjoys the <b>backing of major powers.</b></li><li>- Rescue Op's, Humanitarian Aid- India does commendable Job(Yemen, S.Sudan, Ukraine etc)</li><li>- India has been a responsible power and it has contributed significantly in <b>global peace efforts</b></li></ul> <p><b>Conclusion:</b></p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>	
<b>31.</b>	<b>WTO Reforms</b>	
	<p><b>Intro:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WTO → Rules Based Trading, negotiation and Dispute settlement → must not become an instrument to promote developed nations' interests</li> </ul> <p><b>EU Proposals for Reforms:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EU considers the WTO tradition of consensus-based decision making a challenge.</li> <li>- Calls for Flexibility- Plurilateral Agreements should be made Applicable to countries that accept.</li> <li>- Deliberative functions → permit issues to be discussed outside full membership</li> <li>- Committee Downsizing.</li> <li>- Change the member-driven character of the WTO. More role for Private and business</li> <li>- Sanctions for wilful and repeated non-compliance</li> </ul> <p>Eligibility of Special and differentiated treatment defined on the basis of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- OECD Member, High Income Country (WB), High Export Share</li> </ul> <p><b>Long Pending Issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permanent solution to public stockholding</li> <li>- Dispute Settlement Board → Like court without Judges</li> <li>- Appellate Board → Deadlock</li> <li>- Role of State Enterprises in Market (Conflicting Economic Models)</li> <li>- Issues of Developed vs Developing countries conflicting Interest</li> <li>- No meaningful Progress</li> <li>- Outdated Rules of Trade. Periodic Revision needed</li> </ul> <p><b>12th WTO Ministerial (June 2022) Takeaways:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Multilateral agreement that would curb <b>'harmful' subsidies on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing</b> for the next four years (India negotiated some exemptions for traditional and artisanal fishing)</li> <li>- No export restriction for Food under UN world <b>Food Program</b></li> <li>- <b>e-commerce Customs Moratorium</b> extended till 2024. (India argues that it results in Revenue loss for Developing countries)</li> </ul> <p><b>Vaccine Waiver:</b></p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Temporarily Suspend Vaccine Patent Protection for 5 years(India and South Africa wanted full waiver i.e even on treatments and diagnostics)</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>	
<b>32.</b>	<b>De-Globalisation or Protectionism</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Protectionism in Global Arena</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Globalization had already begun to plateau or stagnate since the 2008-09 global financial crisis (GFC).</li> <li>- This is reflected in Brexit and US' America First Policy.</li> <li>- Further, trade wars and the halting of WTO talks is another recognition of the retreat of globalization.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Protectionism in India</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the past few years, many countries have criticized the Indian economy for becoming protectionist. This can be depicted in the following instances:</li> <li>- Not opening up for imports, particularly after the Indian Government failed to agree on terms for a mini trade deal with the US.</li> <li>- India walked out of the 15-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership of Asian countries.</li> <li>- The "Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliance) initiative", launched in May 2020, after the beginning of the pandemic, was also perceived internationally as a protectionist move.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trade war</b> - is a subset of Trade Protectionism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is a conflict between two or more nations regarding trade tariff imposition on each other's goods.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- e.g US imposed tariffs and quotas on imported Chinese solar panels and washing machines. China is a world</li> </ul>	



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leader in solar equipment manufacturing. The World Trade Organization ruled that the United States acted unfairly in levying the tariff.

### **Currency wars**

- Developed countries : like Canada and Australia have depreciated their currency due to falling oil and commodity prices
- 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.

### **Impact of currency war on global economy**

- 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.

### **Way Forward**

- *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.

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<b>33.</b>	<b>Global energy crisis and rising crude oil prices</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- World faces energy crisis with consistent rise in oil prices - &gt; Ex: Coal &amp; power crisis in China, Coal crisis in India, Fuel crisis in UK.</li> <li>- US, China, UK, India, Europe, South Korea -&gt; worst hit by the energy crunch.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reasons for the current global energy crisis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current global energy crisis -&gt; result of cascade of issues faced by different countries =&gt; Pandemic, Greenflation, geopolitics, etc.</li> <li>- Covid-19 pandemic -&gt; reduced gas &amp; electricity use sharply, in contrast to overproduction from oil &amp; gas companies -&gt; resulted to fall in wholesale energy prices -&gt; in turn limited their production as well.</li> <li>- However, unexpected recovery from pandemic -&gt; led to rapid increase in energy demands -&gt; affected negatively by supply-side crunch &amp; sudden inflation.</li> <li>- Heavy rainfall in South &amp; South-East Asia -&gt; made coal mining difficult in countries like India &amp; China -&gt; facing coal crisis.</li> <li>- In Europe -&gt; harsh winter conditions -&gt; adversely affect the gas transport systems -&gt; as most of the gas in Europe is imported -&gt; heightened the energy crisis.</li> <li>- Move towards sustainable sources of energy -&gt; demand for limited energy sources like natural gas increased -&gt; causing 'greenflation'.</li> <li>- Many countries closed their coal fields -&gt; due to environmental concerns.</li> <li>- Geopolitics elevates energy crises in some regions. Ex: Russia has not increased the supplies to EU -&gt; to put pressure on Nord Stream 2 pipeline approval.</li> </ul> <p><b>Energy crisis in India</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- India -&gt; depends on fossil fuels (70% of its power requirements) -&gt; currently, the coal stocks are abysmally low.</li> </ul> <p>Major reasons,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Power consumption in many states like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra &amp; Karnataka -&gt; risen from 14% to 21% after pandemic -&gt; putting strain on production &amp; supply network.</li> <li>- Power crisis in China -&gt; hiked the demand &amp; prices of fuel globally.</li> <li>- India imports most of its coal from outside &amp; supply chain bottlenecks -&gt; still not smoothed post-pandemic.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Widening gap between low cost of electricity &amp; high prices of imported coal.</li> <li>- India -&gt; 4<sup>th</sup> largest coal reserves in the world -&gt; but, local supplies strained due to a drop in investments in fossil fuels -&gt; to meet climate targets.</li> <li>- Power companies -&gt; did not stockpile coal -&gt; due to high costs of stockpiling.</li> </ul> <p><b>Way forward</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- World is in energy transition stage.</li> <li>- Most of the consumptive &amp; fast-growing economies -&gt; heavily dependent on thermal energy -&gt; difficult to switch to renewables quickly =&gt; hence, divide the attention towards sustainable alternatives -&gt; also to achieve better stability in future &amp; avoid future energy crises.</li> <li>- Many countries -&gt; taking measures on war footing scale -&gt; to tackle the crisis by working with state-run organizations -&gt; to boost mining &amp; production of coal -&gt; trying to set the right balance between green energy &amp; fossil fuel usage.</li> <li>- California has installed solar-powered batteries connected to the grid -&gt; store excess energy &amp; dispatch back into the grid after sunset.</li> <li>- “Green Grids Initiative”, “One sun One world One grid” -&gt; introduced by India -&gt; right step in harnessing &amp; saving energy for the future.</li> <li>- In today’s scenario -&gt; climate change mitigation &amp; tackling the energy crisis -&gt; have to go hand in hand -&gt; as both are complexly interlinked.</li> </ul> <p>Countries need to come up with solutions -&gt; to control, mitigate &amp; balance the future with present.</p>	
<b>34.</b>	<b>WHO (75th Session)</b>	
	<p><b>Financing and challenges</b></p> <p><i>Funding</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- four kinds of contributions</li> <li>- Assessed contributions (once major contributor; now reduced)</li> <li>- Voluntary contributions</li> <li>- Core voluntary contributions</li> <li>- Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Contributions</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contributors – USA &gt; Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation &gt; GAVI Vaccine Alliance</li> <li>- India makes up 0.48 per cent of total contributions.</li> </ul> <p><i>Challenges</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- dependant on donor funds</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 80% of WHO's funding is tied to programs that donors choose</li> <li>- organisation's efficacy has come under question – during COVID, Ebola times.</li> <li>- failing to vet information and share it in a timely and transparent manner</li> <li>- insufficient funding, structuring, staffing and bureaucracy</li> <li>- countries earlier dependent on the WHO for technical assistance - gained competence in the fields of public health and medicine.</li> <li>- US – Freeze funding – saying it as CHINA CENTRIC</li> <li>- WHO would have to work with its partners to fill any financial gaps that arise to ensure that its work continues uninterrupted</li> </ul> <p><b>Reforming WHO and suggestions by India</b></p> <p><i>Need for WHO reforms</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of funding</li> <li>- Need to give more powers to WHO</li> <li>- No penalty for member state non- compliance'</li> <li>- Lack of information sharing</li> <li>- The demand for a review of the vaccine approval process</li> </ul> <p><i>India submits 9-point plan for WHO reforms</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthening the Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) declaration process.</li> <li>- Funding - need to ensure that extra budgetary or voluntary contributions - to use wherever required the most <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ensuring transparency of funding mechanism and accountability framework</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Enhancement of the response capacities of the WHO and Member States</li> <li>- Improvement of the WHO's governance structure</li> <li>- Improvement in IHR Implementation:</li> <li>- Access to therapeutics, vaccines and diagnostics</li> <li>- Creation of Global Framework for Management of Infectious Diseases &amp; Pandemics</li> <li>- Role of Hosted Partnerships in pandemic management</li> <li>- need to set up “pan world surveillance” by leveraging the latest technology.</li> </ul>	
<b>35.</b>	<b>UNHRC</b>	
	<p><b>Significance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Important component of the UN rights system.</li> <li>- HRC has a fair track record of taking up human rights agenda.</li> <li>- facilitated the evolution of human rights norms.</li> <li>- Resolutions adopted have highlighted rights violations</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The situation in Syria, Yemen, Myanmar, and North Korea are few examples.</li> <li>- Issues that have been the source of much controversy have been addressed at the HRC, including LGBTIQ rights.</li> <li>- forum to monitor international obligations of a state based on international law.</li> <li>- Its sustenance with credibility is significant for handling global human rights issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Issues in UNHRC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Confusion between OHCHR and HRC and their mandates</li> <li>- Intrusion into the sovereignty of the states</li> <li>- council hardly takes any enforceable form</li> <li>- prioritises pet projects over common concerns</li> <li>- Less effectiveness</li> <li>- Bias against Israel</li> <li>- Ignores the worst cases of human rights abuses in favour of “softer” topics like the elderly, children and the disabled.</li> <li>- The detention of political opposition in Cuba, destruction of civil society in Venezuela have not been questioned in UNHRC. The stand taken by HRC on Libya and Syria is also insufficient.</li> </ul> <p><b>Role in Ukraine-Russia crisis and other global problems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It conducted 34<sup>th</sup> special session on the deteriorating human rights situation in Ukraine</li> <li>- Russia has been suspended from the UN Human Rights Council</li> <li>- Daily updates about death tolls, injuries on important Ukraine cities.</li> <li>- Passes resolution to unite countries against Russian invasion.</li> <li>- Discussion on Realising Human Rights To End Inequalities And End Aids By 2030</li> <li>- United Nations Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People</li> <li>- Assisting transitional justice in Colombia</li> </ul>	
<b>36.</b>	<b>Indian diaspora</b>	
	<p><b>Intro</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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</li> </ul>	

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### **India's diaspora policy**

- 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.
- 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.

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## 2022- MAINS STUDY MODULE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Diffusion of experience and exposure: They spread the Indian Culture and traditions abroad benefitting India in general. Example: Yoga, Ayurveda, Indian Cuisine etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges faced by Indian diaspora</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Heterogeneous in nature: different challenges faced and demands by the diaspora.</li> <li>- Security crisis: In regions like Ukraine, Kuwait etc, during military intervention.</li> <li>- Anti-globalisation: Increasing number of hate crimes against Indian communities.</li> <li>- Brain drain: Loss of talent and taxes.</li> <li>- 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</li> <li>- Returning diaspora: The semi-skilled labour is going to return after the infrastructure boom ends.</li> </ul> <p><b>Way ahead</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ease entry of foreign funds.</li> <li>- Address the problems of our overseas blue-collar workers</li> <li>- Negotiating a Standard Labour Export Agreements with the host countries</li> <li>- Inclusive Diplomacy.</li> <li>- Promoting tourism among 2nd generation PIOs.</li> <li>- Setting up Special Economic Zones, exclusively for projects to be set up by NRIs/PIOs.</li> <li>- Special infrastructure bonds for attracting NRI/PIO investments on the lines of the Israel Bonds.</li> </ul>	
<b>37.</b>	<b>India's Arctic Policy</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- India's engagement with the Arctic began when it signed the Svalbard Treaty in 1920 in Paris.</li> </ul> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To strengthen <u>national capabilities and competencies</u> in science and exploration, climate and environmental protection, maritime and economic cooperation with the Arctic region.</li> <li>- To strengthen <u>institutional and human resource capacities</u> within the government and academic, research and business institutions through inter-ministerial coordination in pursuit of India's interests in the Arctic.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To enhance <u>understanding of the impact of climate change</u> in the Arctic region on India’s climate, economic and energy security.</li> <li>- To promote better <u>analysis, prediction and coordinated policymaking on the implications of ice melting</u> in the Arctic on India’s economic, military and strategic interests related to global shipping routes, energy security and exploitation of mineral wealth.</li> <li>- To seeks to study the <u>linkages between polar regions and the Himalayas</u> and deepen the cooperation between India and the countries of the Arctic region under various Arctic forums, drawing expertise from scientific and traditional knowledge.</li> <li>- To increase India’s participation in the Arctic Council and improve <u>understanding of the complex governance structures</u> in the Arctic, relevant international laws and geopolitics of the region.</li> </ul> <p><b>Relevance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shipping routes</li> <li>- The adverse effects of the Arctic are not just impacting the availability of mineral and hydrocarbon resources, but also transforming global shipping routes.</li> <li>- The region holds immense geopolitical importance as the Arctic is projected to be ice-free by 2050 and world powers making a beeline to exploit the region rich in natural resources.</li> </ul> <p><b>Way forward</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raising awareness about the region within India</li> <li>- Appointing an Arctic Ambassador who will represent and voice India’s perspectives on Arctic matters.</li> </ul>	
<b>38.</b>	<b>Changing world order</b>	
	<p><b>What’s changing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expanding Chinese dominance: BRI and China’s expansionist policies. New age weaponry such as hyper-sonic technology and threatening American supremacy. → changing from a unipolar to a multi-polar world.</li> <li>- New Delhi closer to Washington than ever before. Moscow uncomfortable.</li> <li>- Rise of Authoritarianism all over the world: China ignoring Hong Kong’s freedom and human rights violation on Uighur Muslims and an aggressive stance against Taiwan as well; ongoing Ukraine conflict; Taliban’s capture of power in Afghanistan, resurgence of radical activities in Indonesia etc</li> </ul>	



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## 2022- MAINS STUDY MODULE

- Resurfacing border issues: India-China(LAC) and India-Nepal land boundary issues, China's presence in South China Sea,
- Challenges in West Asia: challenges that come with I2U2
- Rise of Indo-Pacific as a New Sub-System
- Retrenchment of USA from major organisations and agreements.
- Declining role of the UN – Failed to prevent the ongoing crisis.

### **Way forward:**

- If India maintains her 'strategic autonomy', she has options. Also, given its geography, one finds that India has more options to leverage its 'strategic autonomy' than even the USA.
- Flexibility in India's foreign policy: to manage existing contradictions.
- Countering China's military strengths: Deterring China's military presence in Indian Ocean Region.
- Utilising multilateral/bilateral links to become a key for economic and political stability in the region. For ex, by expanding partnerships like Quad.
- Cooperating with EU and ASEAN: EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy and
- Need to prepare for a China-based international order where India may or may not have the same position that it had in the earlier international order.
- China-based international organizations would gain in strength and India needs to work with them.