



## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:

**IR: India-Germany relation:** The German chancellor visited India.

- India-Germany Intergovernmental consultations, to expand cooperation in defense, trade, clean energy, migration, digital and indo pacific.
- Germany could become an imp defense partner to India, First ever france-germany-india exercise drill slated to take place in 2024, towards enhanced security and defense collaboration.
- India and Germany are part of G-4 grouping.
- Green and sustainable partnership and coop in areas of green hydrogen.
- Germany's shortage of skilled manpower, India can plug in the gap.

## G20

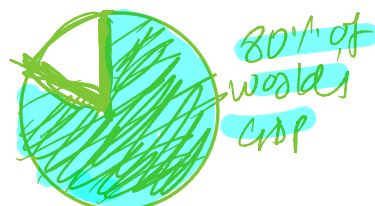
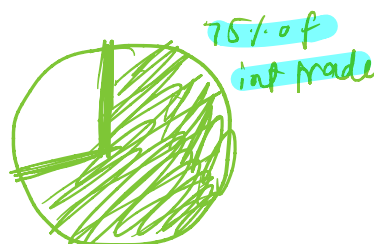
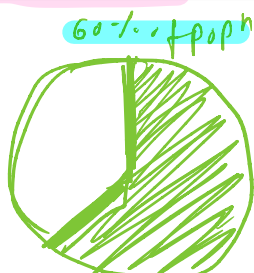
1. **G20 Idea bank** thinks 20 placed **multilateral reforms** as one of its priorities.

2. The **T20 task force** on "Towards Reformed Multilateralism" (TF7) aims to construct a roadmap for "Multilateralism 2.0".

\* the G20 is a strategic multi-lateral platform connecting the world's developed and emerging economies

What can India do?

1. G20 may constitute an engagement group to bring the **narrative** to the forefront of global discourse.
2. India **should urge the upcoming chairs**, Brazil and South Africa to take **multilateral reforms** as their priority.
3. G20 should also continue **encouraging minilateral groupings** as a **new form of multilateralism** to counter dominance of powerful states in multilateralism.



4. World **needs a model** and the **G20 can be one by becoming more inclusive** without sacrificing efficiency. For e.g. **Including African Union as a permanent member** and **UN sec general and General Assembly President as permanent invitees**.
5. **G20 can also take up pressing issues of the day such as food, fuel and fertilizer security to come up as a model.**

**Saudi Iran reconciliation** brokered by China: **Iran has agreed to prevent attacks against Saudi Arabia including those from Houthi controlled Yemen.**

ABRAHAM  
Accords  
Israel / UAE  
/ Bahrain

**India-afg:** MEA to hold courses for Afghans, including Taliban officials. Strong reactions from Afghan students who have been denied visas by New Delhi for nearly 2 years.

## BLACK SEA DEAL

### INDIA'S MEMBERSHIP IN UNSC (2021-2022)

- focused inter alia on **maritime security, terrorism, UN peacekeeping, reformed multilateralism and the Global South** ✱
- Chair of three important UNSC Committees: the **Taliban Sanctions Committee, Libyan Sanctions Committee and Counter-terrorism Committee.**
- **Old conflicts on the UNSC agenda festered and new conflicts were added** – Myanmar, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Mali or Syria, Palestine, Yemen, Haiti, Libya, **the Sahel**, and of course **Ukraine.**
- There was a **military takeover in Myanmar** on February 1, 2021 soon after we came into the Council. India **ensured balanced and comprehensive Council pronouncements**, which finally culminated in a **resolution on Myanmar (adopted under our presidency) in December 2022.**
- **The Taliban forcefully seized power in Afghanistan.** India was able to steer the negotiations which resulted in **UNSC Resolution 2593** laying down benchmarks: **on stopping cross-border terrorism from Afghan soil**, including from **proscribed UN terrorist entities in Pakistan**; protecting the **rights of women, minorities and children**; **ensuring an inclusive government**, and providing humanitarian assistance. ✓
- It was during the **Ukraine conflict** that India's independent stand **calling for dialogue and peace struck a chord with many developing countries**, since they themselves were affected by **unilateral sanctions.**

→ India launched 'Group of Friends' to promote accountability for crime against peacekeepers.

- India has been the **largest contributor of UN peacekeepers**, including as a pioneer in **women peacekeeping**. (women only platoon in Sudan)
- In August 2021, we piloted the first UNSC resolution by India in more than five decades, calling for accountability for crimes against peacekeepers.
- In a first, India also raised the issue of a contemporary form of religiophobia in the Council when, while condemning phobia against Abrahamic religions, it forcefully put forth the need to combat rising hate crimes and phobias against non-Abrahamic religions as well.
- IMF clears \$3B bailout for Sri Lanka under **EXTENDED FUND FACILITY (EEF)**.

Identified corruption as a key issue, an IMF "governance diagnostic mission" has started assessing Sri Lanka's governance and anti corruption framework in its FIRST such exercise in ASIA

#### - INDIA- JAPAN:

- ① Bilateral trade stands @ 20 billion during FY21-22
- ② Japan is the largest official development assistance (ODA) partner of India
- ③ Multilateral coop. - QUAD, G20, G4 etc.
- ④ Security - Japan is only country whom India has actively invited to help in development of NE.

- Visit of Japanese PM for annual summit in India.

- Focus was on coordinating G-7 and G-20 agendas on food and energy security issues arising mainly from the Ukraine conflict AND

- Unveiling Japan's \$75 B plan for free and open INDO-PACIFIC. (FOIP) to work with countries in the region on avoiding debt traps and building infra.

He has been straightforward about the need for India, as g20 president to come on board with g-7 plan to address ukraine issue and call out "Russia aggression"

#### GLOBAL SECURITY INITIATIVE

India-France 25 years of relations:

1. "Horizon 2047" – which includes cooperation in defense, space, nuclear energy, climate change and green transitions as well as education and people-to-people ties.
2. Another road map was released on how to cooperate further in the Indo-Pacific region, which includes military and naval exchanges and a trilateral development fund to help countries in the region.
3. Decisions, in principle, to buy 26 more Rafale fighter jets off-the-shelf (Rafale-M), this time for the Indian Navy;

✓  
4. **three more Scorpene submarines** in continuation to **the purchases of 2008**, and an agreement between **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** and **Safran** for **helicopter engines**.

**Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit was held virtually with no reason being cited.**

- China's acts as reason: On terrorism Mr. Modi said, "Some countries use cross border terrorism as an instrument of their policies, to provide shelter to terrorists. **SCO should not hesitate to criticize such nations.** The issue resonates with Central Asian Republics too.

✱ ✓ On connectivity: China's **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** and its flagship **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** which violates Indian sovereignty."

- The BRI's negative consequences have not inhibited the **enthusiasm of SCO members for it.** India, therefore, needs to **be alive to the danger of China integrating Eurasia** and **shutting it out of the region with Pakistan's active support.** This is not to suggest that India should endorse the BRI, which is an instrument of Chinese expansionism, but it has to find ways to **maintain close ties with Eurasia.**

- **the SCO Declaration was silent on the Ukraine war.** India, Pakistan or China also did not refer to it **in their summit statements.**

The virtual summit ensured that Mr. Modi did not have to meet any of the leaders, including Pakistan's Shehbaz Sharif, personally.

✱  
**SCO: Iran joins as a member.**

Agreement: - **New delhi declaration**; **outlining areas of cooperation between SCO countries**

**Joint statement on countering radicalisation and digital transformation** where India offered to share **expertise on digital payment interface.**

Issues:

- India refused to join other members on paragraphs associated with China's BRI.

- India staying out of joint statement on SCO Economic Development Strategy 2030, indication a lack of consensus in the grouping

**Iran~Saudi Arabia and China agreement**

Why in News?

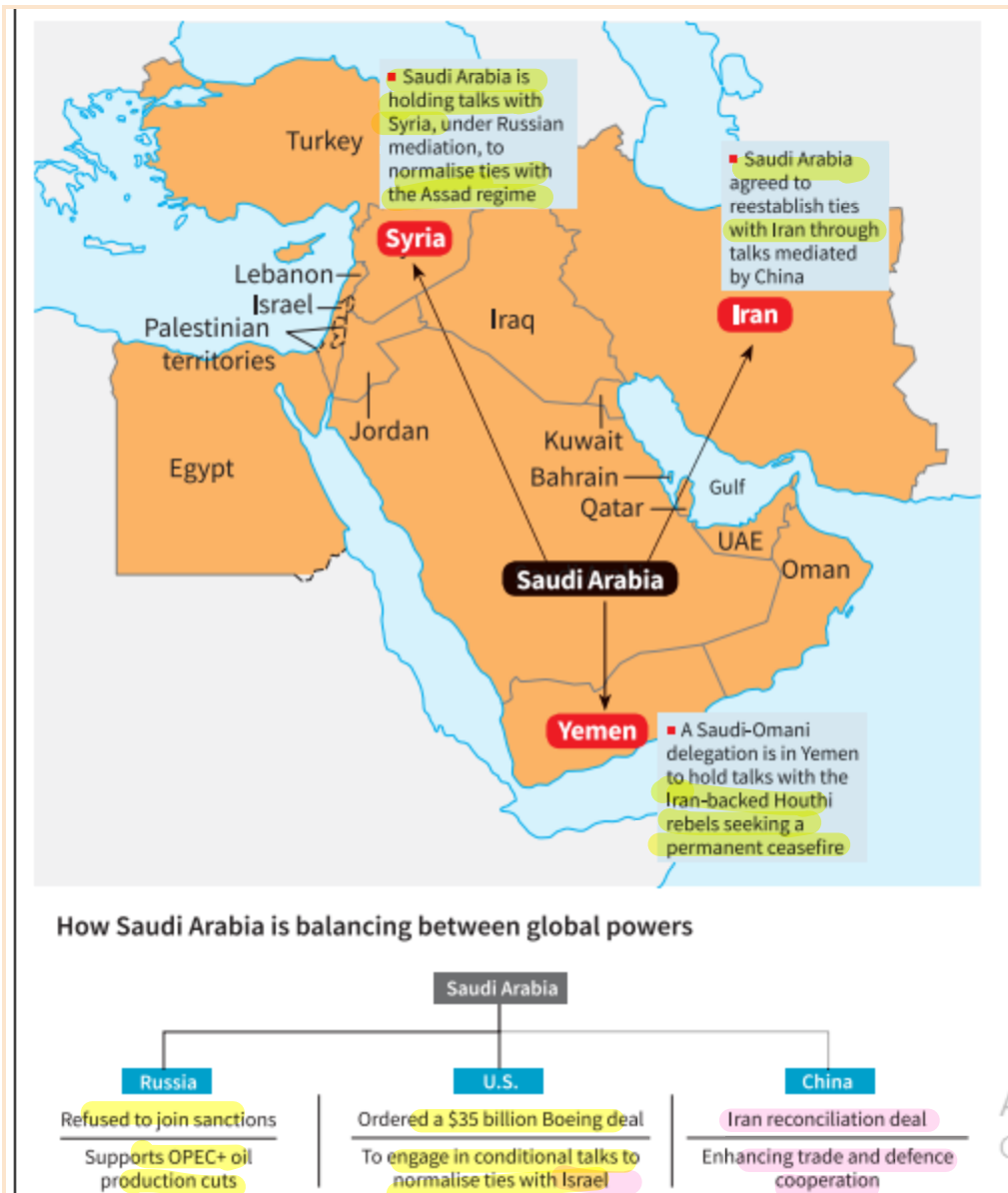
Recently, India has chaired the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** virtual Summit, leaders called for the formation of a "more representative" and multipolar world order in the global interest.

- During this 23<sup>rd</sup> Summit, **Iran officially joined the SCO as the Ninth Member Country.**
- The **theme of India's chairpersonship of SCO is 'Towards a SECURE SCO'**, which is derived from the acronym coined by the Indian PM at the 2018 SCO Qingdao Summit.
  - **It stands for: S: Security, E: Economic development, C: Connectivity, U: Unity, R: Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, E: Environmental protection.**

▪ **New Pillars of Cooperation:**

- India has created five new pillars and focus area for cooperation in the SCO, which include,
  - Startups and Innovation
  - Traditional Medicine
  - Youth Empowerment
  - Digital Inclusion
  - Shared Buddhist Heritage





**india-china: restricting journalist by curtailing their VISAS**

**Language bridge: India is planning to create a pool of experts in language spoken in Myanmar, sri Lanka and Indonesia to facilitate better people to people exchanges.**

#### **High Seas Treaty of UNCLOS:**

- address critical issues such as the increasing sea surface temperatures, overexploitation of marine biodiversity, overfishing, coastal pollution, and unsustainable practices beyond national jurisdiction.
- The first step is establishing marine protected areas to protect oceans from human activities
- On the fair sharing of benefits from marine genetic resources, the treaty mandates sharing of scientific information and monetary benefits through installing a "clear house" mechanism.

- The last pillar of the treaty is capacity building and marine technology.

#### NATO PLUS:

- Security arrangement of NATO and 5 treaty allies of the U.S.: Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Israel, South Korea to enhance "global defence cooperation" and win "strategic competition with the CCP".
  - USA seeking to include India into it.
- Why India should not join?
- it would annoy China and Russia.
  - It will limit India's military freedom of action and pursuing an independent policy towards China.
  - India's traditional strategic autonomy might be curtailed.

#### India-US defense partnership:

- ICET for new and emerging technologies like quantum computing, semiconductors and wireless communications, e.g. public private dialogue on telecommunications to drive collaboration in OPEN RAN

Space situational awareness sharing of space information and cooperation.

Indus-X: new impetus to new initiatives to Indo-US ties.

IPEF

UN adopts first ever agreement to protect marine life at high seas

BIMSTEC TO adopt BANGKOK VISION IN THE NEXT SUMMIT

China, Russia conduct air patrols over the Sea of Japan, East China Sea.

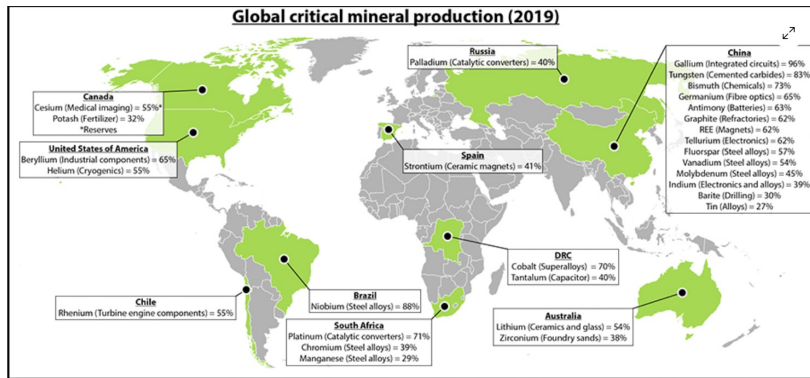
Pakistan released 200 fishermen as a humanitarian gesture.

#### NATO AND IMPLICATIONS ON INDIA: (joining of Sweden and Finland)

1. Russia has few friends left, India and China being amongst them, India is unlikely to help Russia balance the power, so dependence on China will grow.
2. Nordic region has caught the focus of India's strategic radar, India participated in India Nordic summit, Growing control of NATO over the region would be a trouble for India.
3. India has an observer status in the Arctic council. Expansion of NATO will lead to militarisation of the region with China claiming to be a near Arctic state.

IR: Bhutan and India: Bhutan king meets PM

UN water conference

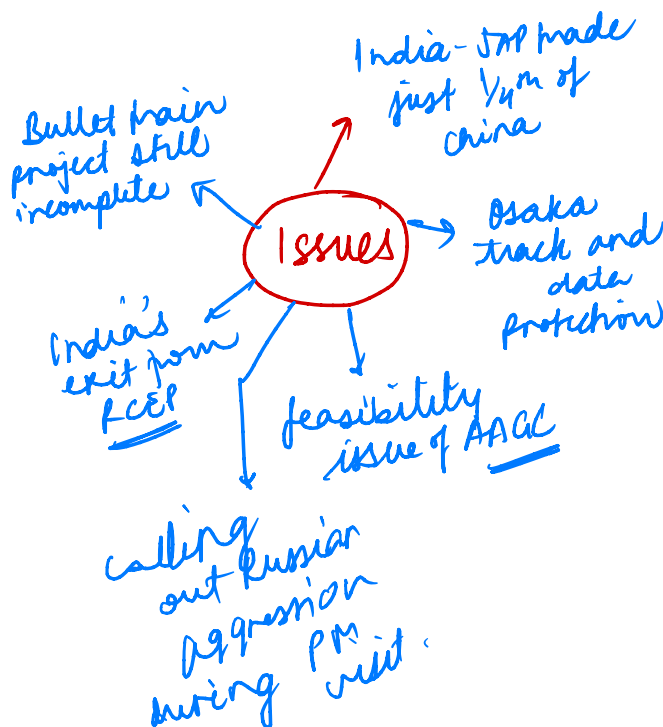


- Semiconductor Supply Chains - A MoU on Semiconductor Supply Chain and Innovation Partnership was signed between the countries.
- Critical Minerals - India became the newest partner of the U.S.'s Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) to diversify and secure critical mineral supply chains.
  - Telecommunications - India and the United States launched public-private Joint Task Forces.
  - India's Bharat 6G and the U.S. Next G Alliance will co-lead this public-private research.
  - Space - India has signed the Artemis Accords, a common vision of space exploration for the benefit of all humankind. To know more about this, [Click here](#).
  - Quantum tech - A Joint Quantum Coordination Mechanism was established to facilitate joint research between the public and private sectors across both countries.
  - iCET - 'Innovation Handshake', a commercial Dialogue will be launched to connect each country's start-up ecosystems, supporting U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET).
  - Civil Aviation - Air India strike a historic agreement with Boeing to acquire more than 200 American-made aircraft.
  - Defence - The India-U.S. Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) was inaugurated joint innovation on defense technologies integrating India's private defense industry.
  - Student Exchange - Launched a new Joint Task Force of the Association of American Universities and leading Indian educational institutions, including the Indian Institutes of Technology.
  - Research - Launched a university network of Indo-U.S. Global Challenge Institutes to help create more research partnerships and exchanges in agriculture, energy, health, and technology.
  - Energy - USAID signed an MOU with the Ministry of Railways to work together on Indian Railways' target to become a "net-zero" carbon emitter by 2030.
  - India and the United States committed to creating innovative investment platforms for Green Technology.
  - Medicine - The U.S. National Cancer Institute through two new grants to develop an artificial-intelligence (AI)-enabled digital pathology platform.

Honduras is one among the countries that has shifted its diplomatic ties from Taiwan to mainland China.

## India and Japan

- QVAS, 920, 44 etc. is \$75 investment for free and open Indo-Pacific region
- culturally connected through Buddhism and partnership agreement between Kyoto and Varanasi.
- trade relations between the two stands at \$20B in 2021-22; Tech - WPEx mission
- Investments → Asia-Pacific Growth Corridor
- Defense → Shinyu Maitri, Shauma Guardian, JMEF.
- Strategic → Supply Chain Resilience Initiative; 2+2 Dialogue



## An objective look at a China-led framework

In his keynote speech at the Lanting Forum in Beijing on February 21, Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Qin Gang highlighted the recently unveiled **Global Security Initiative (GSI) Concept Paper**. The GSI is presented as a China-led framework that seeks to restore stability and security, particularly in Asia. Accordingly, Mr. Qin outlined five major pillars to effectively implement the GSI, i.e., mutual respect, openness and inclusion, multilateralism, mutual benefit, and a holistic approach.

### The substance of the narrative

While the promotion of such principles is timely and critical, given the current shifts in the international geopolitical landscape at the expense of the developing world, a practical assessment indicates that the GSI is tailored more to be an empty narrative to compete with United States leadership and dominant U.S.-led concepts. Consequently, with the war in Ukraine intensifying and diverging perceptions among developing countries vis-à-vis the West and the unfolding war, China is seeking to leverage these fault lines by promoting its vision as a capable alternative leader. However, an objective look at China's recent track record of external engagement paints a completely different picture of what to expect from Beijing's vision of a future security order.

The crux of the GSI's first principle centres on the need for countries to adhere to the **United Nations Charter and international law** while facilitating relations based on mutual trust and respect for each other's sensitivities. During these past few years, China has consistently demonstrated the **exact opposite in terms of its relations with its neighbours**. Along its southwestern border, China continues to ensure that its relations with New Delhi are provocative by not only unilaterally disregarding confidence building measures and bilateral agreements but also by constantly undermining India's territorial



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Beijing's Global Security Initiative, which is a vision of a future security order, is vastly different from China's recent track record of external engagement

integrity and sovereignty. Similarly, China is also increasing its assertive manoeuvres in the South China Sea by greatly militarising the disputed maritime territory at the expense of the sovereignty and the sovereign rights of its Southeast Asian neighbours. Further, in its complete rejection of international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), China continues to assertively intrude and block the access of its neighbours within their respective Exclusive Economic Zones.

The second principle of the GSI lies in its openness to spearhead inclusive international engagements. While this position has been catalysed by the presence of U.S. treaty alliances in the Western Pacific, ironically, China also continues to engage in exclusionary policies in the East and South China Seas. Not only is this an outright rejection of freedom of navigation enshrined in international law but it is also a display of narrowly defined interests to consolidate its sphere of influence in the region.

### On security cooperation

The third principle focuses on bilateral and multilateral security cooperation and consultations to address issues of concern with the parties involved. While China plays a prominent role in various multilateral institutions, its understanding of consultation can be seen through the prism of asymmetric power relations such as constraining members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations from pursuing collective actions against Beijing's assertion. Moreover, China continues to delay the establishment of a **crucial Code of Conduct for the South China Sea** as it continues to bolster its military power projection in the disputed territory and indulge in various grey zone strategies.

The fourth principle highlights the GSI's prioritisation of positive-sum cooperation, where

parties involved can equally benefit. While in theory, China's Belt and Road Initiative is a much-needed cooperative framework given the significant infrastructure deficit in the developing world, it is its disregard for international macroeconomic stability by funding unsustainable projects for countries with low or non-existing credit ratings that creates more debt burdens for these countries. Moreover, as another illustration of Beijing's disregard for its neighbour's sovereignty and sovereign rights, China insisted on receiving a larger share in its bid for a joint exploration of resources with Manila in Philippine waters.

### The 'holistic' line

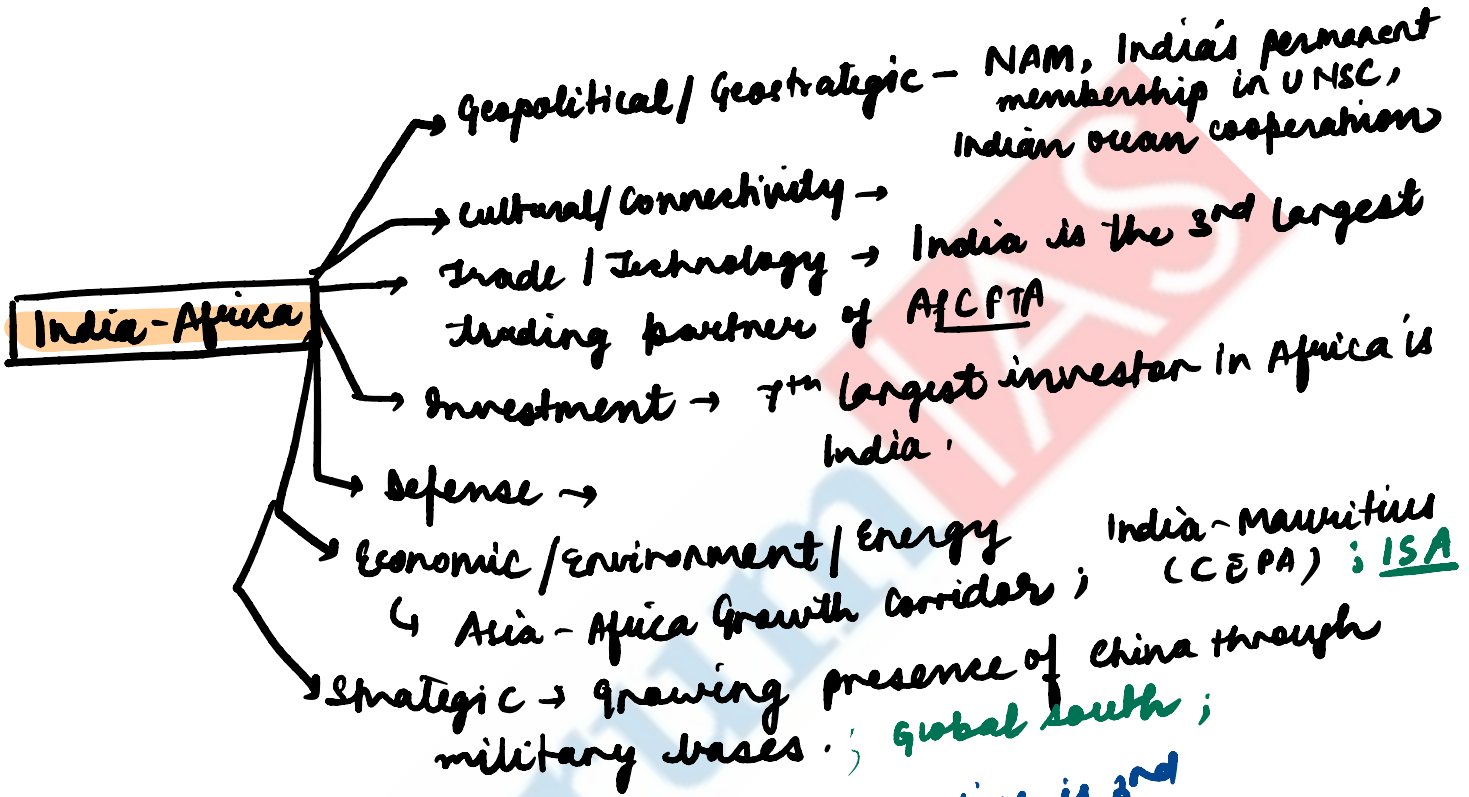
The last principle of the GSI advocates a holistic approach towards traditional and non-traditional security threats, with an equal emphasis on eliminating any "breeding ground for insecurity". Throughout the years, the rise of China in a transitioning multipolar international system has resulted in power competitions with established and rising great powers (such as the U.S. and India, respectively) that seek to preserve and strengthen the established order. Rather than being holistic, China's engagements with these powers indicate a more narrowly defined goal for its power interests. In addition, China also continues to be a catalyst for insecurity in the non-traditional security realm, starting from its alleged lack of accountability regarding the COVID-19 pandemic to arming terror groups, such as in Myanmar.

Therefore, China's GSI is far from being a sustainable, equitable, and transparent solution to the growing insecurity that the world is facing, given an objective understanding of its track record in fulfilling its own principle requirements. Rather, the GSI indicates Beijing's attempt to counter U.S. leadership through narratives, regardless of whether it can effectively operationalise such initiatives on the ground.

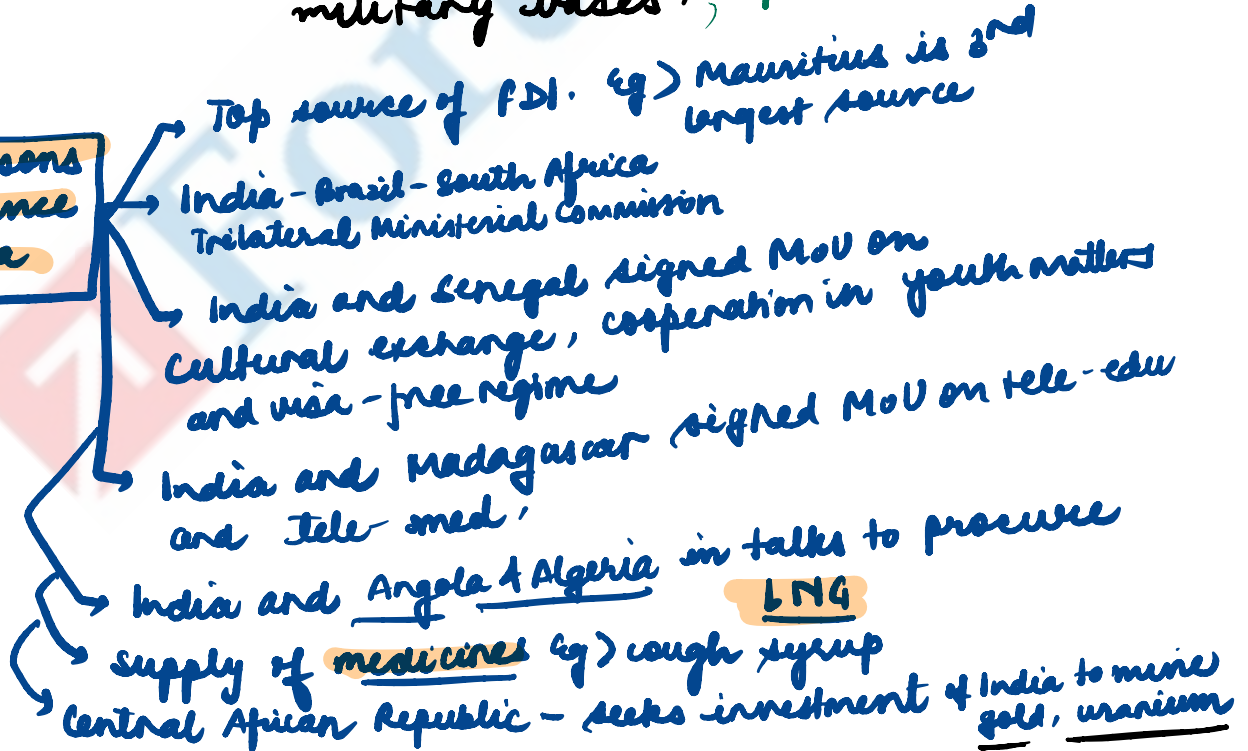
## Challenges

- ❑ Marginal presence of India
- ❑ Ethno religious conflicts in Africa
- ❑ Absence of a rule of law
- ❑ Increasing Chinese footprints in Africa.

- slow progress of Asian African Growth Corridor (AAGC).
- Authoritarian governments



## Other reasons of importance of Africa





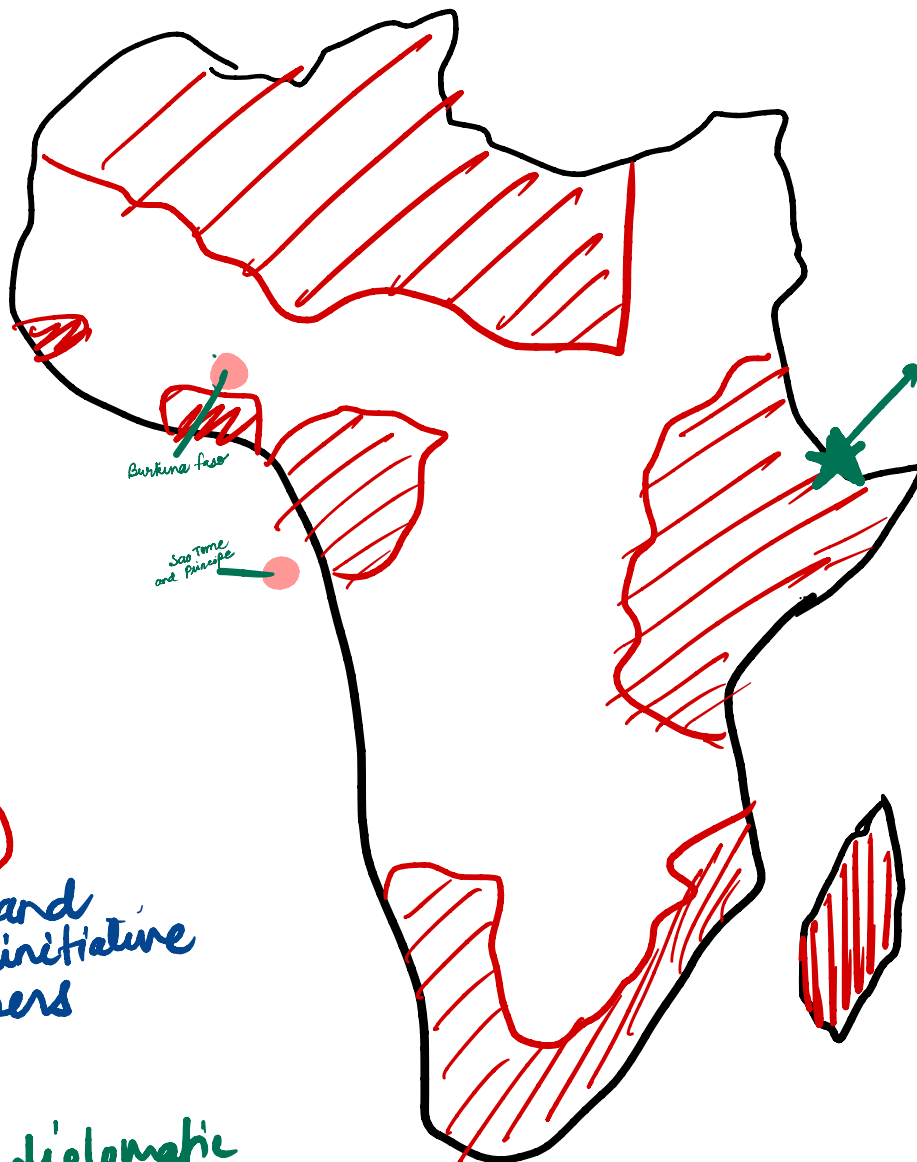
→ ONGC Videsh limited in talks with onshore oil projects in KENYA.

→ India - Mozambique - agreeing to setup counter terrorism efforts

→ Recent coup in Sudan and stranded people - Hakki Pitki

2Africa Pearls is one of the largest subsea cable systems in the world. Its purpose is to provide faster internet connectivity to over 3 billion people by connecting Africa, Europe, and Asia.

Bharti Airtel and Meta jointly investing in extending 2Africa Pearls to India.



Chinese military base in Africa

110  
Belt and Road initiative members

Recent diplomatic shift to China





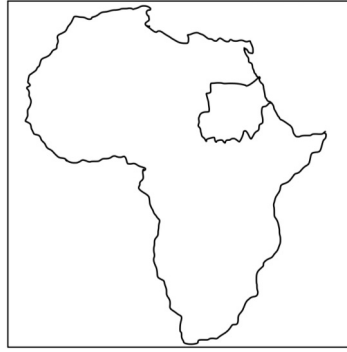
→ conflict in Sudan

## SUDAN CRISIS

CLASS

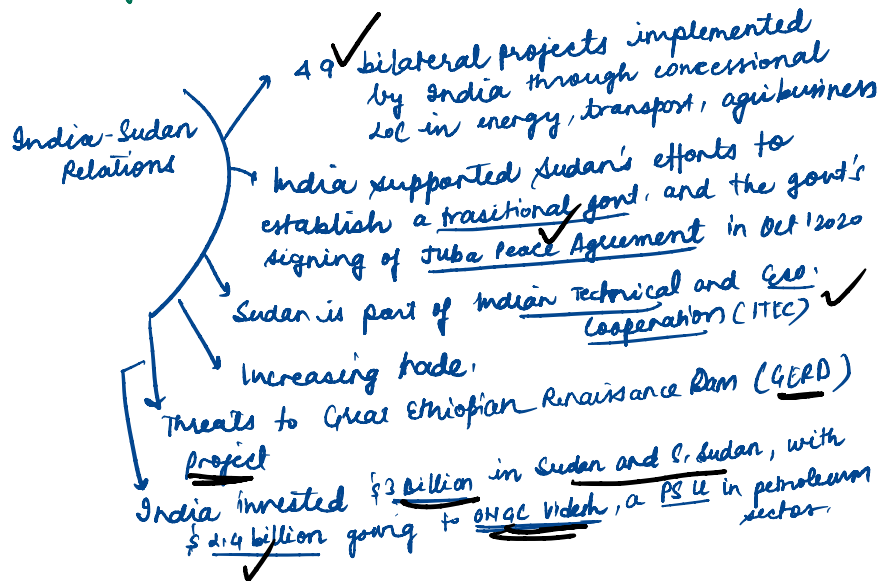
### # ISSUES

- Political tensions & instability
- intercommunal violence
- economic crisis; 'resource curse'
- hunger and displacement (WB - around 46% of the pop. lives below poverty line)



### # IMPLICATIONS

- ✓ Diaspora → Operation Kaveri
- Bilateral relations — India is 2nd largest exporter after China; (crucial for India's food processing industry)
- regional instability
- humanitarian crisis
- trade and eco relations
  - ↳ its strategic position on Red Sea
- vast swath of gold reserves and agri potential, the 2nd largest African nation, long coveted by outside powers
- large oil potential



### Differences in approach of India and China towards Africa

#### # APPROACH

##### INDIA

- soft power
- health diplomacy
- capacity building

##### CHINA

- donation diplomacy
- lack of transparency
- resource exploitation

#### # ISSUES

- low trade & invest
- connectivity
- low momentum in ties

- ↳ major trade & invest ph
- ↳ security ties

# INDIA and GLOBAL SOUTH



→ G20: India hosted **Global South** conf



'India's duty to become voice of global South' — MEA S. Jaishankar

"India; a 'south western power'"

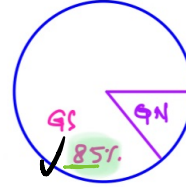


## GLOBAL SOUTH

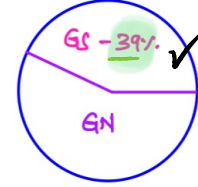
'includes countries in Asia, Africa, South America'

## GLOBAL NORTH

us, EU, Australia etc



Population



GDP  
(Source: PII)

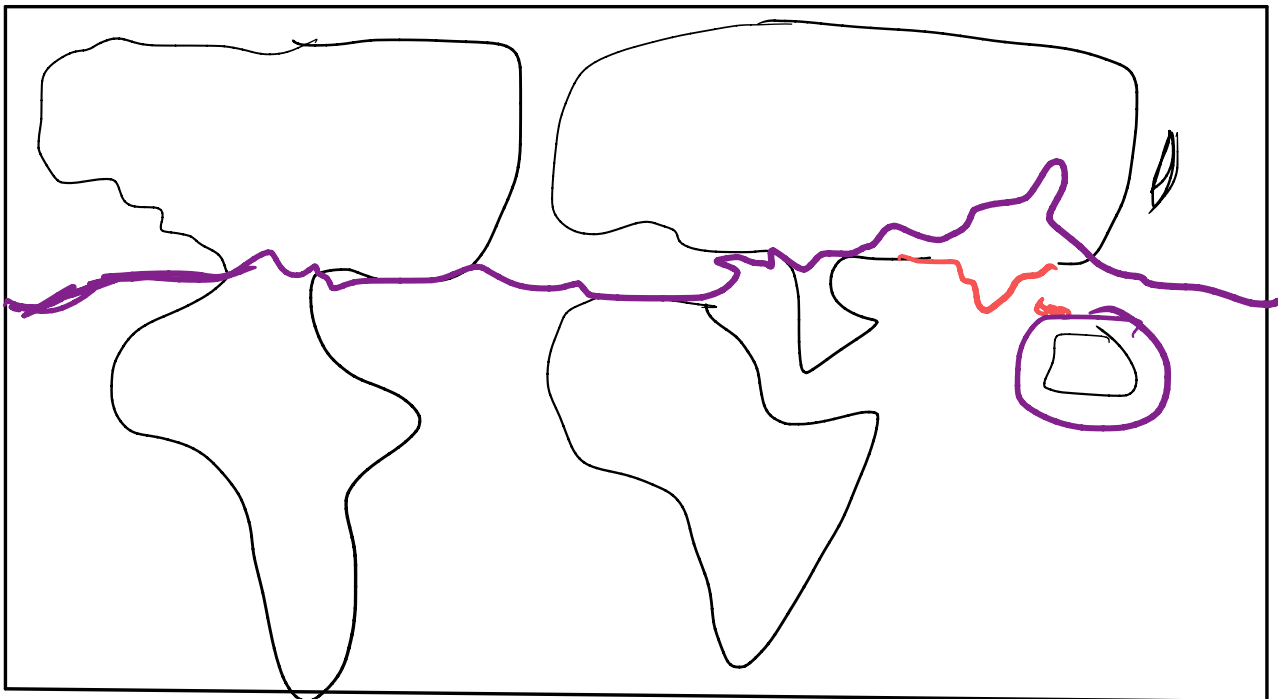
Significance of global South for India

✓  
"podium" for India to unite the nations of global South into a powerful front to adopt an **action-oriented** approach.

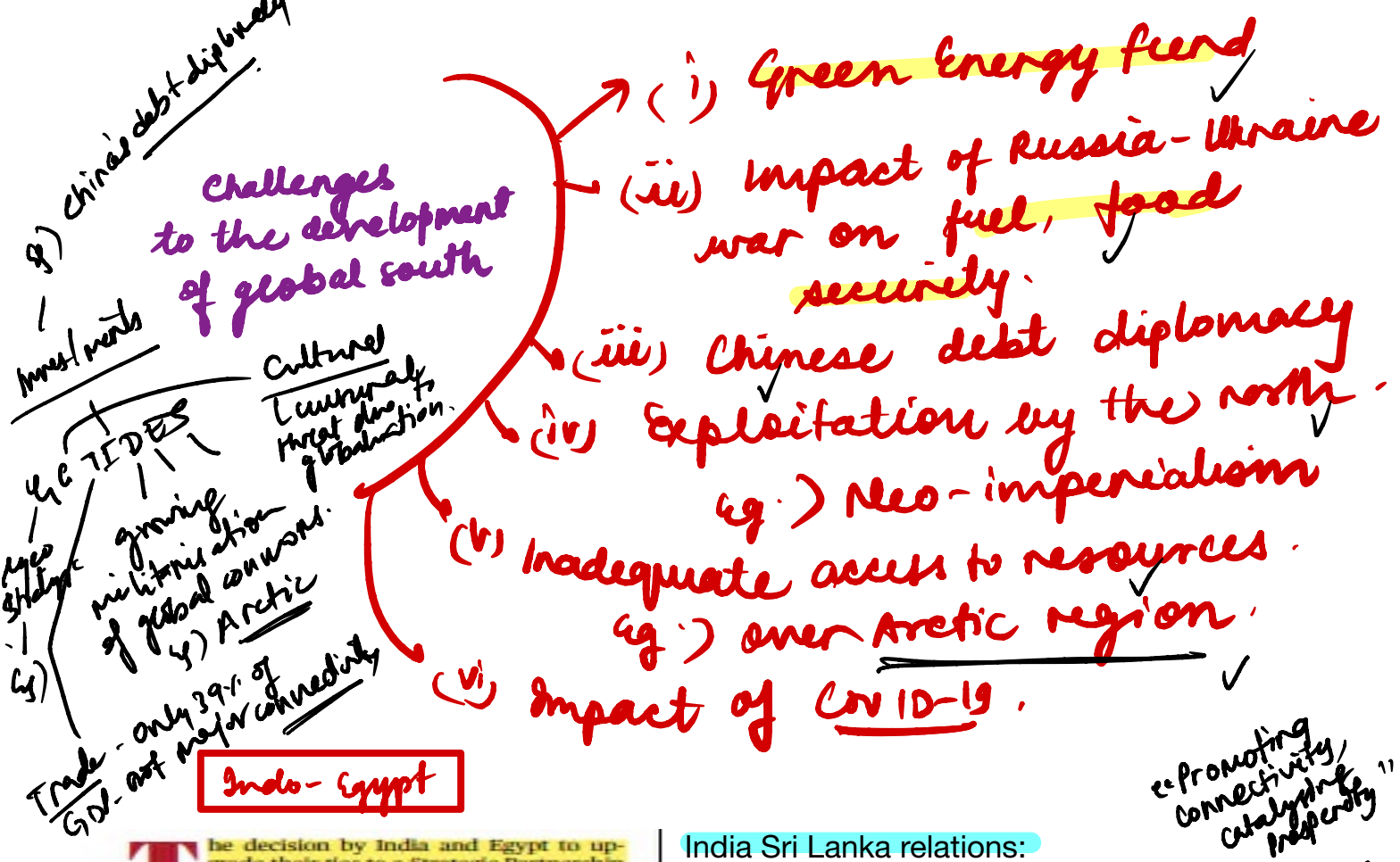
✓  
**untapped potential**

✓  
**common concerns**  
eg) **energy security**, **energy justice**, **sustainable energy transitions** so that all developing countries gain **reliable** and **clean** energy.

media  
act



"From 3<sup>rd</sup> world to Global South"



The decision by India and Egypt to upgrade their ties to a Strategic Partnership during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with Egypt President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi is a significant move for India's ties with the West Asia-North Africa (WANA) region that is long overdue, given their historical ties. The two countries signed a Friendship Treaty in 1955, and India's support to Egypt, including during the Suez Canal crisis in 1956, eventually led to the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961, with both as founder members. They were also instrumental in the G-77 grouping and "South-South Cooperation" initiatives. During the Cold War, India and Egypt were united over their desire not to become "camp followers" of either the U.S. or the Soviet Union. More recently, their positions on the Ukraine war have been extremely similar – refusing to criticise Russia's actions but not condoning them either and calling for a diplomatic resolution. Last year, India's decision to supply wheat to Egypt, one of the world's biggest importers that was hit by the blockade on exports from Russia and Ukraine last year, before the Black Sea Grain Initiative stepped in, won New Delhi much goodwill in Cairo. The two sides are also pursuing closer cooperation in green energy, pharmaceuticals and defence, with MoUs in agriculture, archaeology and antiquities, and competition law. Mr. Modi's visit to the Al-Hakim Mosque and meeting with Egypt's Grand Mufti appeared to be an attempt to dispel misgivings about his government's policies towards the Muslim world.

President El-Sisi who was India's Republic Day chief guest this year, conferred Egypt's highest State Honour, "The Order of The Nile", on Mr. Modi; it is given to world leaders and those "who offer Egypt or humanity invaluable services". The two leaders will meet again as Egypt is a "special invitee" to the G-20 Summit in Delhi in September. The leaders appear to have spent much time focusing on multilateral issues, India's close ties in Egypt's neighbourhood (especially Israel and Saudi Arabia), food and energy security constraints, and building more cooperation with the Global South including the African Union. In March, Egypt joined the "New Development Bank" set up by BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa), and is keen to join this grouping that will deliberate new memberships at its Summit in Cape Town this August, where Egypt will seek India's support. Bolstered by historical ties, and buffeted by present-day geopolitical turmoil, it is clear that India and Egypt are now essaying a closer relationship, one that looks both at future economies and autonomous foreign policies.

#### India Sri Lanka relations:

##### 1. "Promoting Connectivity, Catalysing Prosperity: India-Sri Lanka Economic Partnership Vision"

lays out the vision in five areas: maritime, air, energy, trade and people-to-people initiatives.

New investments in maritime and air connectivity will involve developing ports and airports in Sri Lanka, resuming ferry services and expanding flight networks to connect Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern Provinces.

A major surge in energy connectivity will include developing renewable energy wind and solar plants in Sri Lanka.

Both hope to increase trade, and continue Indian support for Sri Lanka's economy that crashed last year and is slowly working out its debt restructuring process.

A memorandum of understanding was signed to operationalise UPI digital payments in Sri Lanka and to designate the Indian Rupee as currency for trade.

They also agreed to explore ways of enhancing tourism and cultural and religious travel, and educational collaboration.



# BRICS now a non-Western grouping with the induction of six more member nations

## NEWS ANALYSIS

Suhasini Haidar  
NEW DELHI

By doubling its number of members from five to 11 in one quick sweep, the BRICS grouping has strengthened its position as a global grouping to be reckoned with. In addition, the choice of countries, bringing in four major players from the West Asian region ✓ Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE – apart from Ethiopia and Argentina from Africa and South America is significant as it ✓ denotes a shift in the non-western economic grouping's underpinnings, to make it a more politically relevant bloc.

Chief among the messages the BRICS has sent out is that despite misgivings and even mockery of the cohesion in the grouping in the west, it is an attractive club for members of the Global South. BRICS founders chose from 22 countries that formally applied for BRICS membership, and more than 40 in all that have evinced interest in the group. The message that the summit and the BRICS expansion took place despite the U.S. and Europe's moves to "iso-



Global repositioning: Narendra Modi addressing a session at the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg on Thursday. PTI

late" Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, and to push for an ICC international warrant that prevented Russian President Vladimir Putin from travelling to Johannesburg would not be lost on the Western bloc either.

While India may not have been in favour of such a rapid expansion, officials have said it took the lead in drafting the criteria for membership, and the fact that most of the new members are strategic partners of India is the result of India's efforts.

The induction of Iran in BRICS sends a further message against U.S. sanctions, just as Iran's induction in the SCO this year did, and it is significant that Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Iranian President

Ebrahim Raisi before the summit.

However, many international observers have pointed out that all the new members have very close economic ties to China, and the acceptance of Iran and Saudi-UAE to the same grouping has only been made possible by the peace deal brokered by Beijing earlier this year. This factor means that in the future, India may have to lobby harder to make its vote in the BRICS grouping count.

Briefing the media, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said the BRICS expansion would also bolster India's push for UN reform, more representation of the Global South and the expansion of the UN Security Council.

## Chasing consensus

The international community can push Russia and Ukraine towards talks

The Jeddah conference on the Ukraine war, in which 42 nations participated, was one of the most serious efforts by the world in finding a way to end the conflict. This was not a typical peace conference. Russia was not invited, and the main goal of Ukraine and its western partners was to build consensus among major powers, especially in the Global South, on working towards a fair and durable peace. After the talks, diplomats said there was broad acceptance about respecting the central pillars of international law such as Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and that there was agreement to meet again. China had stayed away from the Copenhagen conference in June, which was a precursor to the Jeddah talks. But with China's participation this time, along with India and South Africa – all countries that maintain good ties with Russia despite the war – global efforts towards peace have gained much more seriousness. China, in February, had issued a position paper on the war calling for a "political settlement", where it said the "sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries must be effectively upheld", while also backing Russia's security concerns. Western countries had slammed China's position, saying it could never be a neutral backer. But today, concerned parties appear to be more pragmatic and want China and India to play a bigger, constructive role in convincing Russia to take the path of talks.

Eighteen months after the war began, it is now evident that it has no military solution. Russia has made some advances since last year's humiliating retreat from Kherson and Kharkiv, but is still far from meeting its objectives, and is struggling to cope with the war's effects – from political and economic stability to security issues. Ukraine's much-awaited counteroffensive which started with advanced western weapons and training, has not achieved any major breakthrough. While Ukraine has shown its capability to strike deep inside Russia with drones, Moscow keeps bombing Ukrainian cities and ports. But the stalemate does not push either side towards talks. According to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's peace plan, Russia has to withdraw from all occupied territories for talks to begin. Moscow demands recognition of the annexed Ukrainian territories, including regions its military does not control. Amid these maximalist positions, there is hardly any room for direct talks. This is where the international community could make a difference. It should work with Russia and Ukraine to build an agenda for future talks. The coming together of Ukraine's western backers, neutral developing powers and Russia's close partners could be the first step in building this consensus.

Argentina  
Egypt  
Iran  
SA  
UAE  
China

## Warm welcome

The Modi visit further strengthened the ties between India and the U.S.

Rolling out the red carpet for Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his state visit to Washington, U.S. President Joseph Biden underlined his belief that the India-U.S. partnership will be one of the "defining relationships of the 21st century", one that he has had a strong belief in as U.S. Vice-President in the Obama administration. The phrase mirrored the one used by U.S. President Barack Obama at the state banquet for former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2009 – one of the "defining partnerships of the 21st century" – denoting the consistent strengthening of ties over the first two decades of the century. The visit by Mr. Modi, his first state visit to the U.S., has not disappointed votaries of the relationship. The two sides announced new deals involving high-end defence cooperation, semiconductor industry investments, and a partnership in quantum and advanced computing and AI. The deal for co-production of jet engines in India – White House called it "trailblazing" – will involve an unprecedented level of technology transfer. India's decision to join the U-nation mineral security partnership for critical minerals, where China has a global monopoly, and cooperation on critical and emerging technologies, particularly in clean energy, will strengthen future cooperation here. Finally, India's move to sign on to the 27-nation Artemis Accords for cooperation in space exploration, and the NASA-ISRO partnerships for human spaceflight will also catapult India's ambitions in the sphere.

It is significant that areas of discord, such as the differences in policies towards Russia's war in Ukraine, and confrontation with China, where New Delhi has been more diffident, were sidestepped. Perhaps more difficult to sidestep were increasingly loud questions over the state of democracy and human rights in India, which 75 U.S. members of the Congress raised in a letter to Mr. Biden. While some uber-liberal Democrat lawmakers took the extreme step of boycotting Mr. Modi's address to the joint session of Congress, it would be harder to ignore the pointed words from Mr. Obama in an interview the same day, on India's minority rights. Eventually, Mr. Modi's response, in a rare press availability with Mr. Biden, dismissed some misgivings over his administration – he denied alleged discrimination against minorities and a crackdown on dissent. Rights issues are not a bilateral concern, and with his warm welcome, Mr. Biden made it clear he did not share the concern. If Mr. Modi wishes to address public concerns, however, he may find it more effective to make the case in a press conference on his return, emphasising his belief that "if there are no human values and there is no humanity, there are no human rights, then it cannot be called a democracy".

India-US defense partnership:

- iCET for new and emerging technologies like quantum computing, semiconductors and wireless communications, e.g. public private dialogue on telecommunications to drive collaboration in OPEN RAN



## 5. INDIA-INDO-PACIFIC

### 5.1. INDIA-US



## India US relations– Key facts

2+2  
dialogue



➤ **Trade and Economic relations:** US was India's top trading partner in 2021-22, surpassing China.

- US replaced Mauritius as **second largest source of foreign direct investment** into India during 2020-21
- US is one of the **top 5 investment destinations** for Indian FDI.



➤ **Defence cooperation:** India-US defence cooperation is based on "**New Framework for India US Defence Cooperation**",

- US recognized India as a "**Major Defence Partner in 2016**."
- Several **defence agreements** have been signed like
  - **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Association** (August 2016);
  - **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement** (September 2018);
  - **Industrial Security Agreement** (December 2019);
  - **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement** (October 2020).



➤ **Bilateral military exercises** like Yudh Abhyaas, Vajra prahar, etc.

- In 2019 a tri-services exercise– **Tiger Triumph**- was conducted.



➤ **S&T and Space Cooperation:** India-US **Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement** signed in 2005, which was renewed for a period of ten years in 2019.

- The **ISRO and NASA** are working together to realize a **joint microwave remote sensing satellite** for Earth observation, named **NISAR**.



➤ **Diaspora/People-to-People ties:** The Indian Americans (3.18 million) constitute the **third largest Asian ethnic group** in the US.

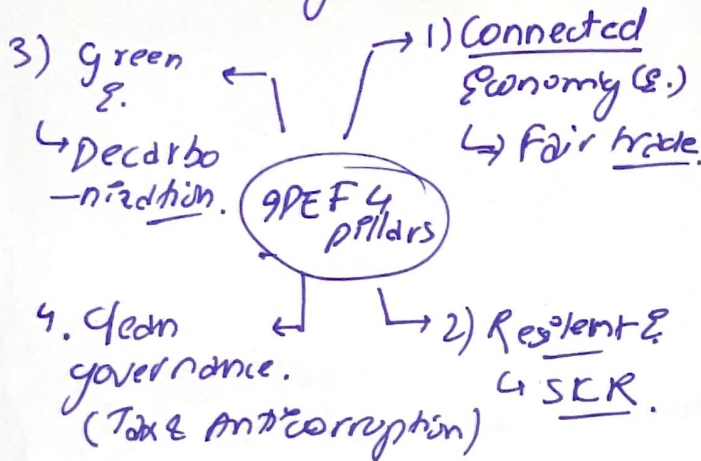


➤ **International cooperation:** United Nations, G-20, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization.

# Topic :- US-led (IPEF)

Indo Pacific Economic framework.

Intro:- IPEF  $\Rightarrow$  US-led initiative, bring 14 countries together, including India.



4. It's "Economic" ally complement, Quad & AUKUS.

1. SCR:- supply chain Resilience  $\rightarrow$  China + 1 strategy.

5. Profit with principle

$\&$  counter Debt trap policy.

6) Support India's initiative  $\&$  Align w/ SAGAR, Act East Policy, FIPIC.

**Significance**

2. Shaping international standard.

$\&$  IPEF focus on Digital policy.

3. Engagement:  $\rightarrow$  Address WTO constraint on Trade dispute.

3) Substantive measures

$\downarrow$  combining "Economic framework with action on technology market access."

1) 3-T framework  $\rightarrow$  Trust, Transparency, Timeline as suggested by PM Modi.

2) Prohibit "Exclusiveness"  $\&$  E-commerce.

Conclusion  $\Rightarrow$  IPEF  $\Rightarrow$  Economic integration in Indo-Pacific region.  $\rightarrow$  Engagement w/ Russia China  $\Rightarrow$  "Cold war" prevention

w/  $\rightarrow$  with w/o  $\rightarrow$  without  $\cong \rightarrow$  Equivalent.

3) Domestic Policies impact:-

$\rightarrow$  US dynamism cast Doubt on IPEF commitment.

1) US Economic Agenda influence.

$\rightarrow$  US driven Rules on digital trade.

4) China  $\leftarrow$  Challenges

Russia Exclusion from IPEF.

2) Past initiative in effectiveness, B3W, not successful,  $\rightarrow$  US credibility doubted post Afg.

5) New Cold war Apprehension:-

$\rightarrow$  ~~PPP~~ China's, says IPEF  $\cong$  Marshall plan

$\rightarrow$  Quad  $\cong$  Asian NATO.



## Theme - Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI)

Intro:- Recently, Russia Rejoined BSGI.

UN & Turkey brokered BSGI  
to avert food prices following  
SCD (Supply chain disruption)  
due to Ukraine war.

Importance of BSGI:-

- 1) Ukraine major exporter of wheat & maize.  
↳ to Middle East & Africa  
by access to ports of  
Black Sea  
Ex) Access to Bosphorus  
Strait.
- 2) This initiative → +ve impact  
on "global cost of living crisis"
- 3) JCC (Joint Coordination  
Center) ⇒ should do oversight  
+ coordination.

Conclusion ⇒ @ initiative alone  
cannot address global hunger,  
↳ if overt chance ⇒ "global  
food crisis".

## Indian Diaspora

Diaspora is a word of Greek origin that means scattering or sowing of seeds. It is used to refer to people who leave their native lands to live in other parts of the world for employment, business or any other purpose.

Indian Diaspora is a generic term used for addressing people who have migrated from the territories that are currently within the borders of the Republic of India. It constitutes NRIs (Non-resident Indians) and PIOs (Persons of Indian origins). The Indian Diaspora is estimated to be over 30 million. The Government of India recognises the importance of Indian Diaspora as it has brought economic, financial, and global benefits to India. The Indian Diaspora today constitutes an important, and in some respects unique, force in world culture.

According to the Committee on the Ministry of External Affairs' 15th report, tabled in Parliament last month, the Indian diaspora comprises over 18 million persons of Indian origin (PIO) and 13 million non-resident Indians (NRIs, meaning Indian citizens living abroad), making it the largest overseas community globally. Given these numbers, the committee has recommended that the government introduce a policy document that can serve as a "guiding principle for a deeper and wider connection with NRIs, while also playing a more proactive role in developing closer contact with them."

As per a WHO report in July 2022, with remittances valued at \$87 billion, India was the top remittance recipient among low- and middle-income countries, as per 2021 estimates, way ahead of China and Mexico's \$53 billion, the Philippines (\$36 billion) and Egypt (\$33 billion).

### Significance of Indian Diaspora

#### Economic

- Indian diaspora is one of the richest minorities in many developed countries
- Migrants' remittances have positive systemic effects on the balance of payments. Remittances of \$70-80 billion help to bridge a wider trade deficit.
- Migration of less-skilled labour (especially to West Asia) has also helped in bringing down disguised unemployment in India.
- Significant source of trade and investment in India.

#### Political

- Many people from Indian diaspora hold top political positions in many countries, example - Mauritian politician Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Kamala Devi Harris, Rishi Sunak.
- Indian diaspora played an important role in turning around doubting legislators into voting for the India-U.S. nuclear deal.
- It's an important part of India's "soft diplomacy" or "diaspora diplomacy."
- Diaspora Diplomacy -> Collective action that is driven by a country's diaspora, which influences host country's culture, politics, and economics in a manner that is mutually beneficial for both the countries (host & home).

**Standing Committee on External Affairs report on 'Welfare of Indian Diaspora: Policies/Schemes' August, 2022.**

Key observations and recommendations of the Committee include:

- **Policy for diaspora:** The Committee observed that no clear policy on diaspora is in place, despite their socio-economic contributions to the development of the country. The Committee recommended that the MEA should draft a clear policy document on the diaspora which would serve as a guiding principle for engagement with the community.
- **Database on Indian diaspora:** The Committee recommended that Indian Embassies encourage the diaspora to register themselves, which would allow the Ministry to effectively implement welfare schemes.
- **Emigration Management Bill:** The Committee observed that the Emigration Management Bill, 2022 has been under consultation and vetting for a long time. It seeks to establish an emigration framework, liberalise clearances, and strengthen welfare for overseas migrants. The Committee recommended that the Ministry introduce the Bill at the earliest.
- **Multiple portals for grievance redressal:** Several portals such as e-Migrate, and the Centralised Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) are in place to resolve the grievances of Indian nationals abroad. The Committee noted that multiple portals may delay grievance resolution and recommended that the Ministry ensure it does not lead to duplication of work. The Committee noted that the CPGRAMS portal is the quickest way to interact with state governments or the district police, but it is not popular overseas. It recommended that the Ministry publicise the portal so it can be used to resolve grievances effectively.
- **Rehabilitation of workers:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, many workers including Gulf returnees lost their jobs. As the pandemic eased, few workers have returned to their places of employment abroad. The Committee noted that a rehabilitation scheme to ensure livelihood security for workers who lost their jobs or were unable to return to their place of employment is required. It recommended that the Ministry draft a comprehensive rehabilitation scheme in coordination with the concerned Ministries, Departments, state governments, and stakeholders.
- **Skilling of potential migrant workers:** The Committee noted that the international labour market has now become demand driven, compared to the earlier supply driven system. With new labour markets emerging in east-Asian countries such as Japan, Korea, and Taiwan, the skilling of potential migrant workers is a challenge. The Committee noted that providing skills that match the destination country's requirements is an important challenge, especially in the post-COVID era. It recommended improving the quality of domestic skilling and standardising curricula across the country to ensure that migrant workers are able to go abroad and secure employment with better wages.
- **Students in Ukraine and China:** Several Indian medical students studying in Ukraine and China were unable to resume their courses physically or complete their internships in India due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Committee recommended that the Ministry ensure that Indian private medical institutions enrol returnee students from Ukraine by granting a one-time exemption. With respect to Indian students enrolled in medical colleges in China, the Committee recommended allowing them to complete the remaining part of their internship in India.
- **NRI Marriages:** The Committee observed increasing cases of women being deserted in NRI marriages. The Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indian Bill, 2019 was examined by the Committee and a report was presented in March, 2020. The Committee recommended that the Ministry complete its consultation and enact a law for the benefit of NRI women.

- **One Stop Centres:** The Committee observed that the Ministry had decided to establish overseas centres to help distressed NRI women. It recommended that the scheme be launched without delay.

### Issues

- Non homogeneous-> different demands from the Indian Government. Diaspora in Gulf mostly seeks welfare related support; Diaspora in West & USA mostly needs congenial investment environment in India.
- Diaspora has often complained regarding the inadequacies in India to invest in the country.
- At times, members of diaspora were engaged in negative campaigning against India & have supported separatists like the Khalistan movement.
- Confrontations like Russia Ukraine war or Middle East crisis results in large number of diaspora members returning India. Their livelihood and rehabilitation remains an issue.