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कृपया इस स्थान
में प्रश्न संख्या के
अतिरिक्त कुछ
न लिखें।

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Name - Japleen Kaur
Roll no. - 1910124548

FORUM IAS



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India has had ancient, historical networks with Africa and its importance is being reinforced in contemporary times.

GROWING SALIENCE OF AFRICA

- ① Demography factor → ~14% of global population and growth rate of ~1.5% presents a formidable market
- ② Economy expected to be a \$1.5 Trillion economy in the next decade.
- ③ Rare Earths → critical mineral supply chain → crucial for energy security.
- ④ Strategic geography → key for securing Indian Ocean region, Arabian Sea,
- ⑤ Connectivity → crucial for maritime sea lines of communication
eg Red Sea, Bab-Al-Mandab etc.
- ⑥ Strategic considerations for balancing China's presence.

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⑦ Development Partnership with Africa.
eg Asia-Africa Growth Pact, Africa Project 2030 etc.

⑧ Environmental significance due to tropical forests, flora, fauna etc.
eg Great Green wall project.

AREAS OF BILATERAL ENGAGEMENT

① Representation of Africa. eg African Union in G-20, UNSC bid for Africa by G4.

② Global South engagement eg VOGS summit

③ Development Pacts eg Asia-Africa Growth Pact.

④ Maritime security eg MAHA SAGAR vision.

⑤ Digital Partnerships eg India-Africa Digital Partnership.

⑥ Knowledge Partnership eg IIT campus in Mozambique, scholarships for students in India.

⑦ Partnership in bodies eg CDRI, ISA etc.

Further cooperation in areas of climate diplomacy, DPI partnership and capacity building are essential for enduring India-Africa relations.

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2

The China+1 strategy of west entails development of India as an alternative to China to balance the dependence on China.

INDIA - ALTERNATIVE TO CHINA

① Economic - i) Reshoring manufacturing to India \rightarrow Apple iPhone

ii) Cheaper labour costs in India.

iii) Significant Investments from west

\rightarrow Google's office, GCC's etc -

iv) Diversifying supply chain \rightarrow SRI

② Technological - i) Critical Energy collabs

\rightarrow ICET

ii) Knowledge and Tech transfers.

\rightarrow I I N D U S X

③ Indian Policies \rightarrow friendly for

friendshoring \rightarrow PLI scheme, less FDI restrictions



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- ④ Multi laterals and Minilateral
eg QUAD, IPEF
- ⑤ Defence cooperation eg Malabar exercise
- ⑥ Red Indo-Pacific → zone of strategic considerations eg QUAD

However, significant Dependence on China persists -

- ① Rare Earths eg recent export restrictions
- ② Trade dependence eg India's largest trading partner
- ③ Issue of Economic Nationalism and Geo-economic fragmentations
- ④ Red Tapeism in India → As per World Bank - it takes 4 years to enforce a contract in India.

Thus, need is for multidimensional efforts to truly implement and benefit from China+1 strategy of west.



3

The Indian diaspora in Gulf region is ~9Mn people as per Ministry of External Affairs.

Gulf Region - lucrative Destination

- ① Stronger wages - → As per WB's MRG Report an average low skill worker experiences a rise of 523% in salary on migrating.
- ② Strong Trade Relations with India
- ③ Higher space for economic and social mobility of people.
- ④ Strong demand for Indian labour in blue collar and white collar jobs.
- ⑤ Strong social Infrastructure making it an attractive destination
- ⑥ Investment friendly policies.

However, many challenges still persist for Indians in Gulf

- ① Political Issues → limited representation

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- 1) Issue of conflict ridden areas
(eg) Iran, Gaza-Israel etc.
- ii) Issue of limited political freedom

② Kafta system leads to abuse of human rights of workers.

③ Significant discrimination with migrants.

④ Issue of class discrimination

⑤ Exploitative workplace policies.

To overcome these issues, formal, transparent channels are crucial to ensure workplace safety and upholding of human rights of people.

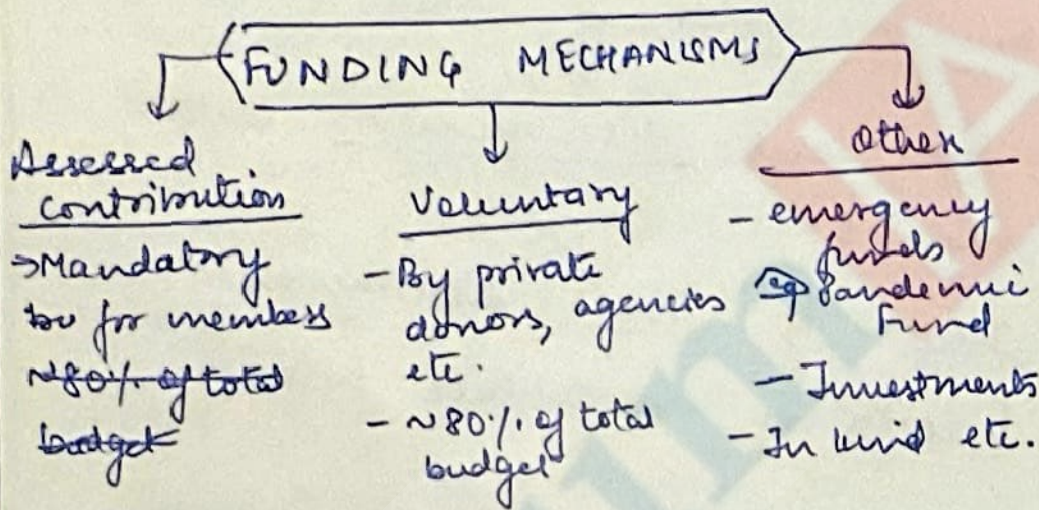


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4
WHO is the global health organisation which receives a mix of mandatory and voluntary funding from members and other donors.



IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH PRIORITIES

- ① **Positive Implications** →
- i) Minimum level of funds are maintained at all times
 - ii) Emergency funds ensure significant quick response
- ② **Negative** →
- i) Voluntary contributions determine the method of use due to its dominance.

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- ii) Inequitable funding for developing and LDCs eg - NTDs in Tropical countries.
- iii) Disproportionate Dominance of a few Nations and private donors eg Impact of USA's withdrawal
- iv) limited channeled response on time eg late COVID pandemic.
- v) Rise of vaccine nationalism impact on poorer nations.

Role of Developing nations

- ① Funding for South-South cooperation in Health
- ② specific objective funding eg NTD, AMR etc
- ③ Consensus based decisions on usage of funds depending on geographical priorities.
- ④ Consider Climate impacts on Health Agendas.

Thus, Developing countries can bring inclusivity and effectiveness in global health funding through consensus based mechanisms.

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India - ASEAN relationship is the strongest arm in Act East Policy of India.

INDIA - ASEAN RELATIONS

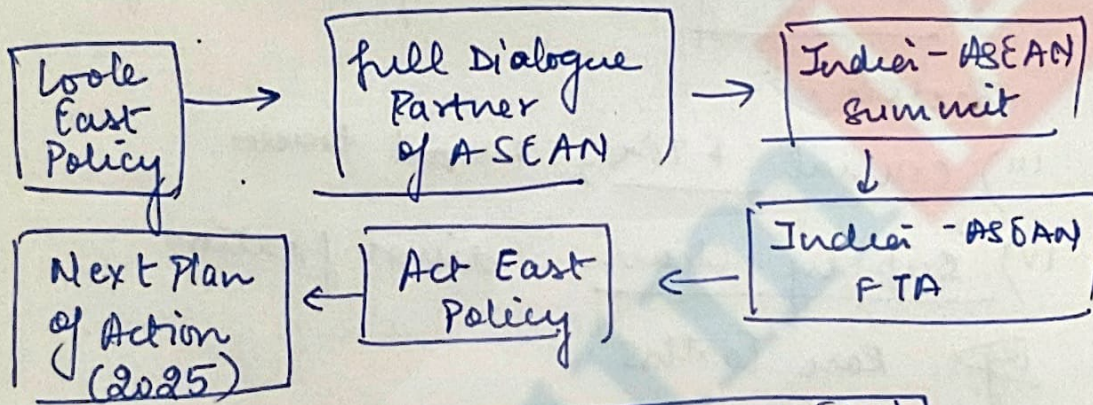


Fig → evolution of India-ASEAN

- ① Geo-strategic significance →
 - i) Centre of Indo-Pacific region → crucial for security of region and ZOPFAN framework.
 - ii) Balance China's grey zone warfare tactics within Indo-Pacific.
 - iii) crucial for sea lines of communication
eg Malacca

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② Geo-Political - 1) Takes India out of South Asian groupings
ii) crucial for strategic autonomy

③ Geo economic - 1) Significant market opportunities
ii) 10th largest trading partner of India.

iii) crucial FTAs, cross border trade

iv) supply chain diversification
eg Rare Earths

v) Connectivity eg IMT Trilateral Highway

④ Cultural contacts → Buddhist connects
↳ Tourist economy

However, issues such as → Strong dependence on China, limited trade need to be addressed.

India-ASEAN need to focus on collective goal achievement of economic co-operation and climate diplomacy to preserve the richness of Indo-Pacific region.

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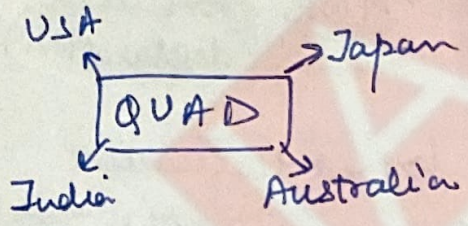
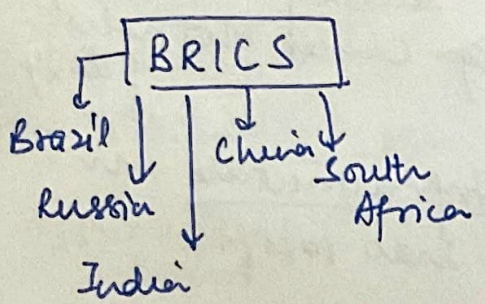
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BRICS and QUAD are crucial for advancing Indian interests in a multipolar world while maintaining its strategic autonomy.



→ New members →
Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran,
UAE, Saudi Arabia

BRICS AND QUAD - DIFFERENT PRIORITIES

BRICS

- ① Representative of Multipolar world over the west led world.
- ② Reform Global Governance
↳ focus on rule based approach

QUAD

- ① Ensure Free, Open, Inclusive Indo-Pacific
- ② Security of Indo Pacific.
- ③ Co-operation on emerging technologies

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BRICS

③ Financial co-operation

↳ NDB (Fortaleza declaration)

↳ Dedollarisation

④ People to people contact

⑤ Global South Co-operation

QUAD

④ Supply chain resilience

⑤ Global health security

↳ Cancer Moonshot - 2024

⑥ Infrastructure in Indo Pacific

SALIENCE IN INDIAN INTERESTS

BRICS

① Crucial for economic interests of India

↳ ~~concessions~~ market of East, Ethiopia etc.

② Development

↳ NDB → finance RRTS, Mumbai metro etc.

QUAD

① Crucial for balancing china led BRI

② Security of Indian Pacific amid rising chinese assertiveness

③ Economic significance with new age technologies



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BRICS

③ Geostrategic → counter balance China in non-west led organisations.

④ Geo political → South-South cooperation.
→ strategic autonomy of India

QUAD

① Focus on Trade and rule based order
eg → IPMDA, MAITRI
↳ freedom of navigation

⑤ strategic deterrence
eg → Malabar exercise.

However, many issues are present

① QUAD views BRICS as anti-west and

② Internal rivalries eg India-China

③ Issue of Tariffs 2.0 → inward approach

④ United economic co-operation

⑤ United climate partnership

~~India needs to focus on~~

India needs to focus on synergistic complementarities with members of ext organisations to fulfill the strategic autonomy goals and maintain a rule based order.



Indian doctors in Kazakhstan.

① Economic - i) Energy diversification
of India

ii) Nuclear fuels (eg) MOU with Uzbekis-
-tan, Agreement with Kazakhstan

iii) connectivity projects (eg) INSTC

iv) Market for Indian products
(eg) generic medicine. iv) Rare Earth
Dialogue (2024)

② Strategic → i) Defence Exercises
(eg) Khanyar with Kyrgyzstan
ii) Agreement with Tajikistan (eg) Farkhor
Airbase.

However, many challenges persist

① China Factor - i) significant presence
and influence on Nations
(eg) part of BR1

ii) Economic dependence on China.



- ② Limited connectivity directly with central Asia.
↳ Requires Afghanistan's connection.
- ③ limited development of ongoing projects
↳ INSTC.
- ④ Issue of 3 evils → separation
↳ Terrorism
↳ Extremism.
- ⑤ lack of strategic clarity of its stand in region.

India needs to focus on →

- 1) Climate, Biodiversity diplomacy with CARs eg snow leopard conservation
- 2) Vishwaguru → scholarship, education in India
- 3) co-operate in Capacity building, DPI in region.

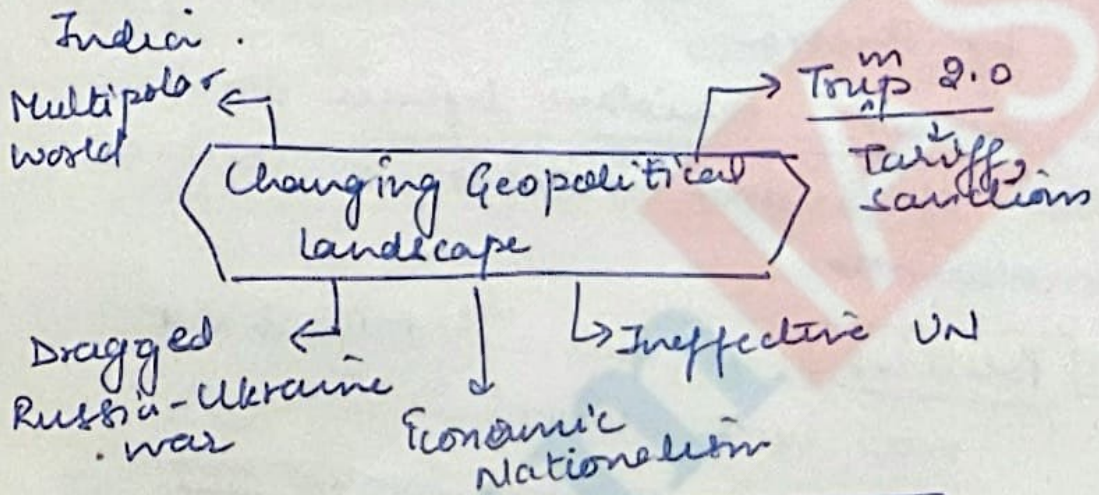
CAR can be a crucial arm in strategic autonomy of India and needs continuous development on lines of 4Cs →
Commerce, Connectivity, Contact and Capacity Enhancement.

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Currently under the special and Privileged Strategic Partnership, Russia has been an 'All weather' friend of



CHALLENGES TO INDIA-RUSSIA RELATIONS

① Economic → i) limited scope of trade diversification

ii) Russian focus on rebuilding economy → further reduce Indian exports.

iii) high reliance on crucial

iv) sanctions on Russia and tariffs on India by USA → impacts trade relations



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② Strategic - i) Russia - China proximity

ii) India's QUAD, IPEF etc participation is seen as Anti with suspicion with By Russia.

iii) Russia - Pakistan Defence talks post of India → create a crucial consideration.

③ Political - i) Russia → dragged out war with Ukraine

ii) Issue with Indian Immigrants → forced to fight frontline battles.

However, despite issues, India - Russia relations remain resilient -

① Economic i) Biggest crude oil supplier to India

ii) India's pledge in for development of Russia's far East.

iii) Connectivity →
a) Chennai - Vladivostok
b) Another Sea route.



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- ② Strategic - (i) crucial defence relationship \Rightarrow S-400 (of India)
(ii) Joint development \Rightarrow BrahMos.
(iii) Multipolar organisations and world \Rightarrow BRICS, SCO etc.

- ③ Other contacts - (i) Science \rightarrow Nuclear Power co operation
(ii) Supports India in UN SC bids.
(iii) Historical support and treaties
 \Rightarrow 1971 friendship treaty.

Thus, India - Russia have strong bonds which need further refinement by micro interventions on economic, climatic fronts.



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Bangladesh stands at the a highest priority for India's neighbourhood first Approach since Indo Bangladesh liberation war.

Bangladesh lib/war → Relations formalised → Strategic economic relations

BANGLADESH - KEY PILLAR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST POLICY

① Geo strategic significance -

- i) Coastal Access to Bay of Bengal security
- ii) Indo-Pacific security
- iii) Balance with chinese presence

② Geo political -

- i) India's channel from Neighbourhood first to Act East Policy.
- ii) crucial for security of India's North East:
- iii) Growing significance within South Asia & SARIC.



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③ Geo-Economic - i) India's huge trading partner → exports of pulses, rice etc.

ii) Multilateral connectivity projects
→ BBIN

iii) Energy projects → Nepal-India-Bangladesh pipeline

④ People to People Ties

⑤ South-south Cooperation

However, recent political vulnerabilities have disrupted relations -

① Political → i) Democratic backsliding -

ii) Anti-India sentiment

iii) spillover effect in rising illegal

migrants in India.

iv) Violence against communities.

② Economic - i) Greater reliance on China.

ii) limiting trade, delays in projects etc -

③ Strategic - i) China card for strategic autonomy with India.

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(ii) ~~of~~ Issue of extradition of Sheikh Hasina.

To move past the current challenges →

- ① Focus on climate diplomacy
eg protection of Bay of Bengal.
- ② Human security and Human Rights
approach for peace and harmony in region.
- ③ HADR eg cyclone responses.

Bangladesh and India together have the capacity to uplift the entire South Asian region and increase its standing to represent the Global South.



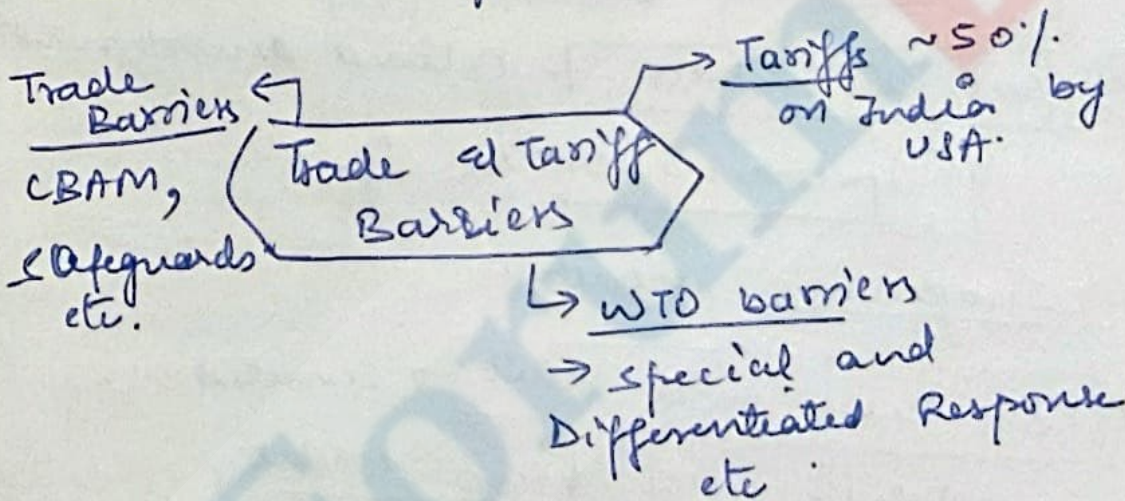
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10 With Trump 2.0, Economic Nationalism has taken the ~~the~~ ^{role} the centre stage with trade barriers and tariffs at its' heart.

As per IMF, this can impact 5-15% of GDP of nations depending on their economic integration with the world.



IMPLICATIONS ON INDIA

① Scientific and Tech Enterprise

① Supply chain →

- 1) Elevated cost of procurement.
- 2) greater cost of production.

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iii) delays and sanctions in procurement
eg crude oil from Russia.

iv) strategic stranglehold
eg china's restricted export of REEs.

② Employment - i) limiting migrant
movement eg USA H1B visa issue.

③ Sectoral Impact - i) limit development
of upcoming startups eg EVs

ii) Innovation impact

④ Financing and Credit → limited
availability of cheap credit

⑤ Impact on strategic, sensitive research
programmes eg energy research etc.

POLICY RESPONSE

① Domestic Investment led economy
needs to be prioritised (EWSurvey '25)
↳ currently private investments have

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reduced from 25% to 20%.

② State funding of crucial long term tech based startups on lines of Chinese startup economy.

③ Diversification of supply chains
eg India - Japan ERI, KABIL - Argentina agreement

④ Explore new markets for talent mobility such as Mexico, Ireland etc
(Eco-survey '25)

⑤ Focus on greater investments in R&D.

⑥ WTO negotiations for better streamlining of NTBs

India needs to focus on long term stability and South-South partnership to overcome the era of geoeconomic fragmentation.

