

PSIR & GS-2 Daily Brief

About this initiative : Briefs, scans the best academic platforms, national newspapers & leading think tanks to pick the most relevant articles & research. It converts them into crisp, high-impact points you can directly use in your mains answers.

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Article - 1 : India's Defence Partnerships - The Asian options



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India's Defence Partnerships: The Asian Options

Context

For three decades India has leaned on four arms suppliers.

India should diversify its defence partnership, energy & supply chains.

Facts

India's traditional defence partners : Russia, Israel, U.S. and France.

India's arms imports : Russia (40%), France (29%), Israel (15%), US (10~11%).

New defence partners : Republic of Korea and Japan.

Analytical Crux

India's defence procurement relied on few suppliers but these partners are facing issues. Russia is involved in war with Ukraine, US trust has declined under Trump 2.0, & Israel is overstretched by wars. India should diversify its defence sector like its energy & trade sector. Korea & Japan are attractive partners because they are capable manufacturers and share India's issues i.e. an assertive China, doubts about the US umbrella and drive for self-reliance. India should begin with Track 1.5 / Track 2 talks and "pathfinder programmes" in areas like aero-engines and missile defence.

Verbatim Quotes

"Despite the rhetoric, most acquisitions remain essentially buyer-seller relationships, with limited genuine technology transfer. Shared security concerns & self-reliance aspirations make India, Japan and the ROK partners of choice."

- Lt. Gen. Anil Ahuja

Article - 2 : India's NRLM and Africa - A case for South-South cooperation



Context India's flagship rural women's self-help group programme (DAY-NRLM) is a proven, low-cost model that India can share with African nations like Nigeria and Ethiopia - not as aid or a copy-paste template, but through peer learning under South-South Cooperation.

Facts

- DAY-NRLM build on 4 pillars : (i) social mobilisation, community institutions led by rural women (ii) financial inclusion (iii) sustainable livelihoods (iv) social inclusion via convergence.
- Mobilised 105 million rural women households into more than 9.09 million SHGs & supported 46 million Mahila Kisans.

Analytical Crux

Fostering innovative partnership frameworks in peer-learning formats under South-South Cooperation (SSC) can be a game-changer in instilling local change grounded in inclusive growth. India's self-help group model offers Africa a proven, people first template for sustainable rural livelihoods. India's value to Africa is not money or hardware but capacity building programmes that fits resource constrained economies. India can teach NRLM's success to Africa and can borrow Nigeria's NFWP and Ethiopia's WEDP gender-sensitive credit models.

Verbatim Quotes

"Through its community-led institutions - involving a minimal workforce and harnessing local rural capacity, the NRLM offers a replicable model for scaling programmes, particularly in resource-constrained economies."

- Prabhu and Ghosh

Article - 3 : India as the arbitration hub- the conversation is the problem

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1 Column

India as the arbitration hub: The conversation is the problem

Until a crucial distinction is understood by the people shaping India's arbitration landscape, the reform agenda will continue to be built around the wrong question.



Context India's ambition to become an "international arbitration hub" is difficult because of enforcement delays, procedural layers and the people in the room.

Facts

- India is one of the largest exporters of disputes - party to 178 of SIAC's 886 cases.
- Potential seats for arbitration are Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad & Bangalore.
- Ambition - make India a top-five arbitral seat by 2030.

Analytical Crux

The issue is not arbitration itself but enforcement of it. India has slow courts despite multiple High Courts and a Supreme Court and makes the arbitration bypassed. An arbitration culture that exists only in two cities is not a national ecosystem but a metropolitan practice with national ambitions. Before becoming an international arbitration hub, India needs to become the first choice for its own parties. It has to undergo structural reforms and GIFT city in Gujarat is an example of it.

Verbatim Quotes

“The arbitration clause is not drafted by arbitration specialists at a conference. It is drafted as an afterthought at the end of a long and difficult negotiation by transactional lawyers under time pressure.”

—Tariq Khan

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