

International Relations Class 26

26th April, 2024 at 9:00 AM

INDIA AND NATO: (9:18 AM)

- **June 2023:** India's External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, clarified that India has no intention of joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), led by Western countries.
- The proposal aimed to enable seamless intelligence sharing among these countries, allowing India to access advanced military technology without significant delays.
- India rejected the suggestion stating that the **"NATO template does not apply to India"**.
- **Issues regarding NATO Plus and India:**
- The idea refers to a security arrangement of NATO and the five treaty allies of the U.S., viz. Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Israel, and South Korea as members.
- The chief aim is to enhance **"global defense cooperation"** and win the **"strategic competition with the Chinese Communist Party"**.
- The term **"NATO Plus"** is not an officially recognized or established concept within NATO itself but has been used in discussions and debates regarding the potential expansion of the alliance.
- The inclusion of these countries as members would require a complex process of negotiation and assessment of their compatibility with NATO's principles, obligations, and defense commitments.
- While NATO's earlier target was the Soviet Union and now Russia, the focus of NATO Plus is clearly on containing China. Therefore, considering its disputes with China, India remains a missing link in the framework.
- **Question: The expansion and strengthening of NATO and a stronger US-Europe strategic partnership works well in India.' What is your opinion about this statement? Give reasons and examples to support your answer. (2023)**
- **Approach:**
- The expansion of NATO with the new addition of Finland and probably Sweden has transformed it into 1 great player in the geopolitics of the world.
- At the same time, India's rise as a regional and a new global player is also creating its own space in international politics.
- Thus the idea of convergence of India and NATO within NATO Plus has gained relevance.
- The strengthening of NATO and its expansion along with the intensified US-Europe partnership offers both opportunities and challenges for India.

- **NATO expansion working well for India (Opportunities):**

- 1. Cooperation in Defense technology, and Technological advancements.
 - For example: The procurement of Apache helicopters and P-8 aircraft from NATO members.
- 2. Greater capacity building.
 - For example: India's participation in NATO-led exercises.
- 3. Cooperation in counter-terrorism.
 - For example: NATO's partnership in Afghanistan for combating terrorism.
- 4. Greater Intelligence sharing.
- 5. Collaboration on Climate change.
 - For example: India can take benefit as far as the US-EU partnership on the global methane pledge is concerned.
- 6. Collaboration in S&T.
 - For example: AI and blockchain.
- 7. Economic collaboration.
 - For example: The recent US-EU Trade and Technology Council meeting could definitely offer us an opportunity for greater stability.
- 8. Collaboration in the Education sector - Intensification of Student and faculty exchange programs between India, the EU, and the US.
 - For example, The Erasmus-Mundus joint master's degree is the most sorted out program by Indian students abroad.

- **However, this collaboration does offer challenges for India:**

- 1. Compromising on India-Russia relations, since India has been procuring defense equipment from Russia as well.
 - For example: S-400 missile defense system.
- 2. It can offer a diplomatic dilemma for India since NATO is guided by the idea of creating Joint Military Deterrence against Russia.
- 3. It could provide economic pressure on India since within this supposed Partnership India also has to comply with economic sanctions posed by US and EU countries on Russia and Iran.
- 4. It could also aggravate China's aggression in our vicinity keeping in mind growing ties between Russia and China.
- 5. This partnership would offer a challenge to India's policy of multi-alignment and strategic autonomy.

- **Way forward:**

- 1. India should continue bilateral engagements separately with the US-EU and Russia.
- 2. We should adopt balanced diplomacy along with the policy of multi-alignment.
 - For example: Leveraging QUAD and balancing Russia as well.
- 3. Boosting the idea of self-reliance which would involve the "Indigenisation of Defense sector. Thereby reducing our dependence on the US, Europe, or Russia.
 - For example Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- In this present world of global dynamics, India should take forward a multifaceted approach with diverse actors based on the principles of cooperation, consolidation, and strategic autonomy.

SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION (SCO): (10:02 AM)

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent international intergovernmental organization.
- **Main goals:**
- Strengthening mutual confidence and good-neighborly relations among the member countries.
- Promoting effective cooperation in politics, trade, economy, science and technology, culture as well as education, energy, transportation, tourism, environmental protection, and other fields.
- Making joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security, and stability in the region.
- Moving towards the establishment of a new, democratic, just, and rational political and economic international order.
- **Strengths and Potential:**
- The SCO covers 40% of the global population, nearly 20% of the global GDP, and 22% of the world's land mass.
- The SCO has a strategically important role in Asia due to its geographical significance. This enables it to control Central Asia and limit the American influence in the region.
- SCO is seen as a counterweight to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.
- **Secure strategy:**
- **S-** Security of citizens (**SCO RATS:** Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is a permanent body based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. RATS possess information on terrorist organizations and terrorists).
- **E-** Economic development for all.
- **C-** Connecting the region.
- **U-** Uniting our people.
- **R-** Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity
- **E-** Environmental protection
- **SCO Summit 2023:**
- India chaired the SCO Virtual Summit.
- A call was made for the creation of a "more representative" and multipolar world order in the global interest.
- Iran officially joined the SCO as the Ninth Member Country.

- **Question: Analyse the importance and relevance of SCO for India. To what extent did India gain from its membership in SCO?**
- **Approach:**
- 1. SCO provides India an opportunity to have deep connectivity with landlocked CAR (Central Asian Republic).
- Since CAR does not have any regional organization of its own, SCO is one of the India-Central Asia engagement platforms under the Connect Central Asia policy.
- 2. It provides a forum for India to engage with China and Pakistan with whom we have low G2G engagement.
- For example, in 2015 at the SCO summit Ufa, India-Pakistan leaders had a bilateral engagement on the sideline of the summit in Russia.
- 3. SCO also helps India to improve its connectivity options (with Russia, CARs, and Iran) and diversify its energy portfolio (with Iran and Russia).
- 4. SCO provides India with a forum for dialogue on various regional issues.
- For example, in 2023, the SCO summit, the Afghan crisis, and terrorism were key issues.
- 5. Issues regarding Covid 19 and subsequent economic slowdown were also mentioned in the summit.
- 6. The SCO summit provides India an opportunity to display its historical credentials and principles.
- For example, at the SCO Summit 2023, India exhibited its philosophy of inclusivity within Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.
- Delhi's declaration at SCO Summit 2023, provided India an opportunity to showcase its commitment to 5 new pillars of cooperation (Startup innovation, Traditional Medicine, Youth empowerment, Digital Inclusion, and Shared Buddhist Heritage).
- 7. SCO helps India to combat the threat of terrorism through the SCO-RATS mechanism.
- 8. SCO provides India with a platform to exhibit its policy of multi-alignment and strategic autonomy.

- **Question: Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO'. In light of the above statement point out the role of India in mitigating problems. (2023)**
- **Approach:**
- Virus of conflict means challenges.
- **Challenges:**
- 1. Geopolitical tensions between member countries like India and Pakistan, India and China.
- 2. Conflict regarding resource sharing between Pakistan and Iran over water.
- China and Central Asian countries over land.
- Water sharing issue between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.
- 3. Diverse perspectives on the question of terrorism with China and Pakistan on one side, and India on the other.
- 4. Conflict regarding diverse political profiles of countries. For example, India is a democratic country, Iran and Pakistan are theocratic, and Pseudo-democracy in China.
- 5. The zeal for leadership within SCO has led to great power rivalry between India, China, and Russia.
- **Role of India within SCO:**
- 1. Promotion of dialogue and negotiation.
- For example, in the Heart of Asia conference, both India and Pakistan participated and this could be a model for dialogue within SCO.
- 2. India has also given the **idea of HEALTH**, which could be a solution to common problems even within SCO.
- H: Healthcare
- E: Economic cooperation.
- A: Alternative energy.
- L: Literature and Culture.
- T: Terrorism free Society.
- H: Humanitarian Cooperation.
- 3. India can promote trade and investment through the SCO business conclave and Investment forum.
- 4. Promotion of connectivity and infrastructure development through projects like INSTC.
- 5. Promotion of counter-terrorism mechanisms along with SCO-RATS.
- 6. India can go along with capacity-building mechanisms and joint military exercises with other SCO countries.
- For example, "Peaceful Mission series of exercise".
- 7. Promotion of multilateralism and peaceful co-existence.
- For example, in 2019, the SCO Summit in Bishkek, India argued for a rule-based international order.
- 8. Promotion of cultural exchanges and P2P contact.
- For example, India hosted the SCO food festival in 2019.
- 9. India has the potential to provide solutions to the issues within SCO through its idea of Panchsheel and Non-Alignment along with principles of trust and mutual benefit.

- **Question: Analyse the significance of new membership in SCO with regard to SCO Summit 2023 (250 words).**
- **Approach:**
- With the inclusion of Iran within SCO, the probable inclusion of Belarus, and the inclusion of countries like UAE as dialogue partners in 2023 needs to be understood through a geostrategic press.
 - 1. This new membership edition would empower SCO to counter the West on major regional and global issues concerning the East.
 - 2. The probable entry of Belarus would empower Russia's fear of influence not only within SCO but also within the Eurasian region.
 - 3. The inclusion of Iran and UAE, could be understood in terms of the growing importance of West Asia, in the world geopolitics.
 - 4. The new membership drive in SCO as per a few scholars can be compared to the expansion of NATO, even calling it as Natoification of SCO.
 - However, in defense, it could be argued that SCO is not a military alliance like NATO, and neither carries a collective security clause.
 - At the same time, the inclusion of Iran, which is under sanctions by the West on one hand demonstrates the multi-alignment policy of member countries, and on the other hand, creates diplomatic challenges, especially for India.
- **Challenges within SCO:**
 - 1. Internal conflicts (Refer to the previous questions).
 - 2. China and aggressive policies.
 - 3. Rising Russia- China axis.
 - 4. Iran as an aggressive force against the West.
 - 5. Terrorism.
 - 6. Islamic radicalisation.
 - 7. Militarisation of the South China Sea.
 - 8. Disturbances in Afghanistan: Illegal arms smuggling and drug trafficking.
 - 9. Diverse position of member countries regarding China's BRI.
 - In the recent 2023 summit, India refused to sign a paragraph regarding BRI.
 - 10. Increased Russian influence within the organization, which might create a concern that India might become a secondary actor in SCO.

G7: (11:14 AM)

- The Group of Seven (G-7) is an intergovernmental organization made up of the world's largest developed economies:
- France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada.
- Government leaders of these countries meet periodically to address international economic and monetary issues, with each member taking over the presidency on a rotating basis.
- **April 2023: G7 Ministers' Meeting on Climate, Energy, and Environment in Sapporo, Japan.**
- G7 has pledged to raise their offshore wind capacity by 150 GW and their solar capacity by over 1 TW through collective efforts.
- The G7 countries recognize the importance of critical minerals for high-tech industries.
- Concerns about supply chain vulnerability along with the social and environmental impacts of mining.
- Discussed Climate funding.
- Decarbonization of Industries.
- **Question: Engaging with India is imperative for the G-7. Comment.**
- **Approach:**
- **1. Economic and Demographic strength:**
- India's economy is larger than the economy of 3 countries: France, Italy, and Canada.
- According to a recent report from the IMF, India is among the fastest-growing economies in the world.
- As per the World Bank's recent report, India's growth rate is very high placing itself among the 7 largest economies of the world.
- This is in contrast to the Western countries, many of which are facing a stagnant growth perspective.
- The higher consumer market of India could prove to be a kin economic engine of the world.
- India has surpassed China as the most populated country with 65% of its working population as young and skilled population.
- **2. Strategic strength:**
- India has emerged as a strategic partner of the West in the Indo-Pacific.
- Out of G-7 members, India has strategic partnerships with the US, UK, France, Germany and Japan.
- India has become a backdoor supplier for European countries to purchase Russian oil which they cannot purchase directly under the US mandate, thereby giving a solution to the energy security issue.
- India is one of the few countries which has cordial ties simultaneously with the US, Japan, and Russia.

- **Challenges within G7:**

- 1. It is considered as an exclusive multilateral forum.
- 2. G7 has shown negligence regarding major issues like the migration crisis, and financial and employment issues, especially regarding the global south.
- 3. Several G 7 programs like the Plaza Accord of 1985, regarding the currency of poor and developing countries have not been very successful.
- 4. There are issues or conflicts among G7 members especially between the West and Germany.
- 5. Due to a lack of consensus, G7 has not been able to arrive at common solutions to common problems.
- 6. Concerns regarding the Washington Consensus (Idea of Free Trade), which was supported by G7.
- 7. Monopolising tendencies of MNCs of developed countries and the inability of G7 to come up with solutions.
- 8. Undermining of economic sovereignty of SSS (Small Sovereign States).
- 9. Failure to address global and regional issues.
- For example, the Brazilian forest fire 2022 or terrorism.
- 10. G7 could be considered as an outdated group failing to reflect the geopolitical realities of the world.
- 11. Member countries like Canada and Italy are considered less influential as compared to India and China.
- Thus it is often argued that G7 should be expanded and converted into G 11 (Group of Influential 11 countries: 4 additionally being China, India, Russia, and Australia).

- **Conclusion:**

- G7 Needs to be institutionalized with a permanent charter and secretariat.
- Conflict among member countries must be resolved.
- G7 must realize that being the most powerful organization, its policy must reflect a global outlook rather than a myopic perspective focusing only on its own interest.

G20: (11:59 AM)

- G20 is an international forum that brings together the world's 20 leading industrialized and emerging economies. It consists of 19 countries and the EU.
- It is a forum for economic, financial, and political cooperation.
- It seeks to address the major global challenges and generate public policies that resolve them.
- **Significance of G20:**
- 1. G20 is composed of the world's largest economies amounting to 80% of the World's GDP and 70% of international trade, 60% of the world's population, and nearly 1/2 of the World's area.
- 2. Although G20 decisions have no legal impact, they do influence state policies.
- For example, the role played by G20 in the international financial crisis of 2007 and 2008
- 3. G20 also plays a reforming role in the international financial system.
- For example, it recommended BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting) for increasing tax transparency.
- 4. It is by far the most balanced and inclusive organization.
- 5. It has played an important role in WTO's trade facilitation agreement.
- 6. It has played an important role in the global health sector during Covid.
- For example, in October 2021, G20 members pledged to vaccinate 70% of the world's population by mid-2020.
- 7. G20 has also contributed towards mitigating the risk of Climate Change.
- For example, G20 has released the G20 Climate Risk Atlas.
- **Major outcomes of the latest summit 2023:**
- Unanimous adoption of the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Joint Declaration.
- Launch of the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) to increase the consumption of biofuels.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).
- Formal inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member of the G20.
- **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC):**
- Signed between India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, UAE, France, Germany, and Italy.
- The IMEC will consist of the railroad, ship-to-rail networks (road and sea), and road transport routes (and networks), extending across two corridors:
- The East Corridor: Connects India to the Arabian Gulf.
- The Northern Corridor: Connects the Arabian Gulf to Europe.
- Aim: To provide a reliable and cost-effective cross-border ship-to-rail transit network enabling goods and services to transit to, from, and between India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, and Europe.
- The project forms part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII).

- **Challenges of G20:**
- **1. Political and Strategic Challenges:**
- China and its aggressive stand pose a diplomatic challenge for all countries within the G20, especially when a majority of them are BRI partners.
- Diverse view regarding the Russia-Ukraine crisis.
- Challenges regarding food and energy security. Thus the idea of IMEC came out.
- **2. Economic Challenges:**
- a) Issue of rising inflation among G20 countries.
- b) Issue of stagflation.
- c) Issue concerning economic protectionism among a few countries.
- **3. Institutional Challenge:**
- a) The absence of a former charter leads to issues like non-transparency, and non-accountability.
- b) The agenda keeps on changing with the rotating chairs (*Lack of continuity*).
- c) There is no formal mechanism to follow. However, the recent G20 virtual leader summit in November 2023 could be a good initiative.
- d) Since declarations are not binding there is a lack of enforcement mechanism.
- G20 can be seen as a bridge between global north and global south, and an ambitious platform for North-South Cooperation.

INDIA-AFRICA RELATIONS: (12:27 PM)

- **Significance of India-Africa Relationship:**
- Resource-rich region.
- Energy Security.
- Strategic Interests.
- Investment Opportunities.
- Exports
- The potential for huge Economic Growth.
- Soft Power
- **Challenges:**
- Since India was more focused on its periphery, especially in SAR and Indo-Pacific, there was a lack of focus on India-Africa relations.
- There is a lack of synchronization between development instruments like grants and aid given to Africa by India.
- But this concern has been largely addressed under the 10-point Kampala principle.
- Increasing Chinese presence and competition from the US, Russia, and EU.
- Security challenges: Terrorism, militarisation, and Piracy.
- Political instability in Africa.
- Racial attack on African people on Indian soil.
- India should consider Africa, as an important actor in our IOR strategy. Also, India should employ the Gujaral Doctrine and create a clear development strategy regarding Africa.

INDIAN- DIASPORA: (12:42 PM)

- To mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian community in the development of India. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated on 9th January every year.
- In India, diaspora is a wide category to includes Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI), out of which PIO and OCI card holders were merged under one category as OCI in 2015.
- The Indian diaspora around the world now stands at 31.2 million, of which PIOs were 17 million and NRIs were 13 million, spread across 146 countries in the world.
- **13th July 2023:** The PM of India during his 2-day visit to France, in his address to the Indian diaspora, described India as a “model of diversity” and also announced an agreement for the use of UPI in France (a new market for Indian innovation in cashless instant payment).
- **NRI:**
- An Indian citizen who is ordinarily residing outside India and holds an Indian Passport.
- An Individual is considered an NRI who stays in India for less than a period of 182 days during the period of the preceding financial year.
- **PIO:**
- PIO is an identification status given to those whose ancestors were permanent Indian residents/citizens and who currently hold valid citizenship and passports of another country.
- **What is OCI?**
- **Overseas Citizenship of India(OCI)** is a form of permanent residency available to PIOs and their spouses which allows them to live and work in India indefinitely.
- OCI status is not citizenship.
- It does not grant the right to vote in Indian elections or hold public office.
- The OCI Card is only valid with a valid international passport.
- The OCI scheme was introduced by the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. 2005 in response to demands for dual citizenship by the Indian diaspora.
- OCI status is not available to anyone who has ever been a Pakistani or Bangladeshi citizen, or who is a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of such a person.
- **Challenges of Indian Diaspora:**
- 1. The presence of a heterogenous Diaspora and diverse demands comes out to be a serious challenge.
- For example, the demand of the diaspora in Gulf countries concerns security and welfare (Easy evacuation Policy).
- For example, Operation Ajay, whereas the demand of the diaspora in the developed world is regarding rules on social security like totalisation agreement, VISA entry, and better investment opportunities.
- 2. Demand of the diaspora in the developed world regarding rules on social security like totalisation agreement, visa entry, and better investment opportunities.
- 3. Political disturbance in the West Asia,
- 4. The anti-globalization wave has created anti-migrant sentiments and restrictions on H1B visas occurred in the USA.
- 5. Hate crimes and discrimination.
- 6. Concerns regarding support of the Khalistani movement by a few groups, outside India.

- **Way forward:**

- 1. India needs to formulate its diaspora policy keeping in mind their diverse demands.
- 2. A proper evacuation policy needs to be formulated(*Diaspora in West Asia*).
- 3. The concern regarding blue-collar workers needs to be addressed.
- 4. Issues regarding the no-entry regime and totalisation agreement need to be discussed/addressed.
- 5. The welfare of Indian women married to PIOs, NRIs, or OCIs needs to be addressed.
- Indian diaspora is a living bridge that can provide strategic impulse that can help India not only gain strategic cloud in world politics but also as a cultural ambassador it provides a platform for the exhibition of India's soft diplomacy.

INDIA-UN: (1:03 PM)

- **Need to reform UNSC:**

- 1. Power distribution within the UNSC is asymmetrical.
- 2. Representation within the UNSC is asymmetrical.
- 3. The UN is facing a permanent financial crisis.
- 4. Stalling of various development projects by the UN.
- 5. Greater domination of the US and other Western countries as important donors in day to day functioning of the UN and its bodies.
- 6. Non-binding recommendations of UNGA which is another reason for the ineffectiveness of the UN.

- **India's Quest for permanent membership in UNSC:**

- India has a historic association with the UN as its founding member.
- India has been one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping forces as of now.
- India has always upheld the essence of nuclear non-proliferation and arms trade.
- India has turned out to be one of the most stable democracies in the world.
- Refer to the Handouts.

THE SYLLABUS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED.