

International Relations Class 25

25th April, 2024 at 1:00 PM

WHY INDIA IS GAINING OPPORTUNITY IN THE EU? : (1:03 PM)

- 1. EU as a block has realized India's economic importance, especially in the backdrop of BREXIT, Covid 19, and the predominance of China in the global supply chains.
- This has created a great convergence between India and the EU in both the strategic and economic spheres.
- 2. The rise of India as an emerging powerhouse with immense opportunities for investments has also brought India and the EU together.
- This is the reason why India-EU trade talks are on priority.
- 3. A common concern regarding global terrorism. Global terrorism has offered a new opportunity for India to collaborate with the EU.
- 4. India's presidency in various multilateral organizations such as G20, and SCO. For example, 2023 offers an opportunity for India to come along with the EU in offering common solutions to common problems.
- **INDIA- EU FTA / BTIA (Broad Based Trade And Investment Agreement):**
- The BTIA included trade in goods, services, and investments.
- Currently, the European Union is India's second-largest trading partner after the US and the second-largest destination for Indian exports.
- Refer to the ppt.

CHALLENGES BETWEEN INDIA AND EU: (1:19 PM)

- **1. Economic Challenges:**
- **a) Issue regarding market access of agricultural produce from India:**
- India is demanding the lowering of non-tariff barriers in the form of sanitary, and phytosanitary barriers, especially for Indian agricultural and dairy products.
- Greater market access is demanded by the EU in India, especially with regard to the agriculture, dairy, and Pharma sectors.
- **b) Issues regarding digital trade and data transfer:**
- The EU alleges that India does not have adequate infrastructure for Digital data protection.
- EU is also critical regarding concerns of data piracy in India.
- From India's side, there is a demand for data localization.

- **c) Issues regarding IPRs:**
- EU is not comfortable with India's IPR norms like Compulsory Licencing.
- It also has issues regarding India banning the evergreening of Patents (keeping in mind the importance of generic drugs in India and also regarding India's opposition to data exclusivity).
- **d) Issues regarding investment protection:**
- Investment protection and concerns regarding long-drawn court cases in India are another challenge.
- EU wants comprehensive proposals regarding the "State of investment and dispute redressal mechanism".
- This could be regarded as an international court system wherein individual companies can sue countries based on the adoption of discriminatory policies.
- EU argues that such a step would not only protect investment but would also avoid state-to-state confrontation.
- India along with Brazil, Argentina, and Japan has rejected this proposal.
- India argues that any kind of redressal should be part of a bilateral agreement and should not be resolved at the multilateral level.
- Lack of ease of doing business and procedural rigidity in India.
- The trade imbalance between the EU and China (in favor of China) is another irritant point from an Indian perspective.
- **e) Issues regarding the service sector:**
- India demanded greater access to the EU market in Mode 1 and Mode 4 services while the EU wanted greater accessibility in Mode 2 and Mode 3 services.
- **2. Political Challenges:**
- Divergent views on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and on UN resolution regarding ceasefire orders on Israel.
- **3. Social challenges:**
- Issues regarding VISA regulation by EU.
- Talks regarding totalisation agreement.
- Since India and the EU are considered Natural partners with a very important point of convergence in the Indo-Pacific, security concerns could be a future option for collaboration.
- It is argued that the India-EU FTA (BTIA) needs to be finalized as soon as possible so that apart from being natural partners, both entities can become reliable economic partners.

INDO - RUSSIA RELATIONS: (1:54 PM)

OBJECTIVE:

1. What is the Significance of Russia for India?
2. Different Aspects of Indo-Russia Relations.
3. Implications of war on Ukraine for India.
4. Areas of Cooperation.
5. Key Challenges and Way Forward.

- **Recent Developments:**

- **15th-17th March 2024:** Presidential elections were held in Russia from 15 to 17 March 2024. It was the 8th presidential election in the country.
- The incumbent president Vladimir Putin won with 88% of the vote, the highest percentage in a presidential election in post-Soviet Russia, gaining a fifth term.
- **Feb 2023:** 30th anniversary of the Indo-Russian Friendship Treaty of 1993.
- **June 2022:** India and Russia celebrated the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations. This has come amid the Russia-Ukraine war.

SIGNIFICANCE: (2:08 PM)

- It can help in moderating Chinese aggression in the region.
- Helps in deepening India's footprint in the Russian Far East and in the Arctic.
- Boost to Connectivity projects. *For example: INSTC.*
- Boosting new areas of economic partnership apart from conventional areas.
- A major source of arms/military imports.
- Common concern on countering terrorism.
- Support base of India at multilateral forums.

DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF INDO-RUSSIA RELATIONS: (2:21 PM)

- During the Cold War: India and the Soviet Union maintained strong strategic, military, economic, and diplomatic relationships.
- 1971: India and the Soviet Union signed the Treaty of Peace and Friendship.
- 1993: New Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation.
- 1994: A bilateral Military-Technical Cooperation agreement was signed.
- 2000: Signing of the "Declaration on the India-Russia Strategic Partnership".
- 2010: The Strategic Partnership was elevated to the level of a "Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership."
- Recently (post-COVID world)—Russia's growing closeness with China.
- **What is India's position on the Ukraine issue?**
- As per the Indian foreign minister, the conflict does not serve the interest of anybody- neither the participants nor the international community.
- India prioritizes an immediate end to hostilities and a return to diplomacy and engagement.
- "I know that today's era is not an era of war", PM Modi remarked on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) 2022.

IMPLICATIONS OF UKRAINE WAR IN INDIA: (2:35 PM)

- 1. It could embolden China regarding its territorial ambitions. (danger for India's territorial security).
- 2. Sanctions on Russia will impact India's defense cooperations *since greater diplomatic relations are required.*
- *Also, there is a reduction in Defense imports.*
- 3. A new area of global attention other than the Indo-Pacific.
- *The entire focus was on China.*
- 4. Diplomatic tightrope situation for India (*how to balance relations with other countries like the USA*).
- 5. Rising Russia-China axis and its effect.

QUESTION: (2:54 PM)

- **Discuss the Global Implications of the China-Russia Alliance in the present scenario.**
- 1. It has united the entire West under the leadership of the USA common pressure on this new alliance.
- 2. It has deepened the already existing fault lines between the USA and China, and the USA and Russia.
- 3. It has led to the involvement of neutral countries like Japan and Germany, who have also taken an anti-Russian stand.
- 4. It has increased the involvement of the USA against China in the South China Sea, IOR, and Indo-Pacific within the idea of NATO Plus and against Russia in Europe and Eurasia within the idea of NATO.
- 5. Conflict has reenergized NATO, and other countries fear a similar fate from Russia and are now joining NATO latest being Finland and this year Sweden.
- 6. The new arms race has begun which might aggravate global insecurity.
- 7. There is a danger of the rise of non-conventional warfare including cyber attack, nuclear attack, or chemical or biological attack.
- 8. In South Asia, it is said this crisis and the rising Russia-China alliance have the potential to embolden China regarding its territorial ambition.
- 9. The crisis has also led to new security challenges such as Food Security, Fertiliser security (the Black Sea Grain initiative was launched), and Energy security.
- 10. At the same time, it has created human security challenges in terms of mass migration of people affecting both education and health.

AFFECT OF RISING RUSSIA-CHINA ALLIANCE ON INDIA: (3:20 PM)

- **1. Geo-political Implication:**
- a) The entry of Russia as an alliance partner of China in the SAR (South Asian Region) now demands a cautious approach from India.
- b) The alliance can strengthen China to take an aggressive stand in the South China Sea, IOR, and Indo-Pacific supposedly against the West or USA adding to the geopolitical instability of the region.
- **2. Strategic Implication:**
- a) The increasing military cooperation between the two might affect India considering our border proximity with China.
- b) The increasing engagement can also help India enter into various International Organisations, where China has opposed us.
- c) Russia in this case, can also act as a moderator, in terms of the rising Chinese footprint in SAR, Central Asia, and West Asia.
- **3. Economic Implication:**
- The economic cooperation between China and Russia might affect India's economic relations with Russia.

AREAS OF COOPERATION: (3:33 PM)

- **1. Defence and Security Relations:**
- The joint military programs between India and Russia include:
- Brahmos Cruise Missile Programme.
- KA-226T twin-engine utility helicopters.
- Sukhoi Su-30MKI programme.
- 5th generation fighter jet program.
- Ilyushin/HAL Tactical Transport Aircraft.
- **2. Trade relations:**
- 2023: India and Russia are discussing a free trade agreement (FTA).
- India's imports from Russia more than quadrupled to \$46.33 billion over the last fiscal year, mainly through oil.
- **3. Nuclear Cooperation:**
- Cooperation in the area of peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant is being built in India with Russian cooperation.
- Rooppur Nuclear Power Project in Bangladesh jointly by India and Russia.
- **4. Space Exploration:**
- GLONASS navigation System remote sensing and other societal applications of outer space.
- At the 19th Bilateral Summit, 2018: An MoU between ISRO and ROSCOSMOS on Joint Activities in the field of the Human Spaceflight Programme was signed.

CHALLENGES: (3:36 PM)

- The rising engagement of India and the USA in the form of QUAD and QUAD Plus is criticized by Russia.
- Russia's tilt towards Pakistan, China, and Turkey is creating issues for India.
- Challenges involving defense procurement from Russia. For example: Maintenance issues and issues regarding delayed supply of spare products.
- Stalling of connectivity projects like INSTC.
- **Way forward:**
- Russia needs to come up with an agreement to provide military or defense supplies in a time-bound manner.
- India needs to continue balancing its strategic position with Russia and the USA without compromising relations with either of them.
- Multi-alignment in this regard could be the key.
- Continuous engagement with Russia in various multilateral forums needs to be encouraged, such as in SCO, G-20, and BRICS.

NATO: (3:44 PM)

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called **the Washington Treaty**) of April 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- Finland is the latest country to join NATO.
- **Objectives:**
- To safeguard the freedom and security of all its members through both political and military means.
- **Political objectives:**
- Promotion of democratic values.
- Enabling members to consult and cooperate on defense and security-related issues.
- Trust building and in the long run, preventing conflict.
- **Military Objectives:**
- Aims for peaceful resolution of disputes. Only if diplomatic efforts fail, does it take recourse to military power for crisis-management operations.
- These are carried out under the collective defense clause of NATO's founding treaty.
- **What is collective defense?**
- Members of NATO are committed to mutual defense in response to an attack by any external party.
- Collective defense lies at the very heart of NATO, "a unique and enduring principle that binds its members together, committing them to protect each other and setting a spirit of solidarity within the Alliance".
- This is laid out in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, the founding treaty of NATO.
- Refer to the PPT for Article 5.

RELEVANCE OF NATO: (4:00 PM)

- **Why was NATO not dissolved after the disintegration of the USSR?**
- Despite being a cold-war construct, NATO not only holds relevance in the present context but is even extending its membership day by day.
- The following can be the probable reasons:
- The growing geopolitical influence of NATO in the Euro-Atlantic region.
- The collective security clause of NATO under Article 5, provides an extra layer of security to the member countries.
- This has become important, especially in the wake of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine crisis.
- The growing importance of NATO can also be assessed by the fact that the combined NATO defense spending has increased tremendously.
- Under the security threat, within the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, global defense spending has increased up 9% to a record 2.2 trillion dollars with NATO member countries accounting for half the total.
- NATO has exhibited its influence in various global and regional issues. For example: The Afghan crisis, and the West Asian crisis.
- NATO has also emerged as one of the most important foreign policy tools of the USA, which the USA has used time and again to maintain its hegemony.
- NATO has continued holding its relevance because in the post-Cold War era, apart from the conventional security threats, nation-states are witnessing non-conventional security threats as well.

QUESTION: (4:10 PM)

- **What is NATO's stand in the Russia - Ukraine conflict?**
- 1. NATO has condemned and criticized Russia's aggression in the strongest word calling it "unjustified and uncalled for".
- 2. As per NATO, the Russian attack is a violation of international laws, thereby threatening the regional peace of the Euro-Atlantic region.
- 3. NATO therefore calls for immediate cessation of military attack by Russia.
- 4. NATO cannot be involved directly in the conflict as Ukraine is not a member of NATO. Thus, the collective security clause of NATO cannot be invoked.
- However, NATO has made it clear that it could invoke this clause if Russia wages a cyber attack on Ukraine which results in a spillover effect on NATO members, especially Poland.
- Fearing this NATO stated that it has the right to station its forces on the borders of Poland to avoid such threats.

INDIA'S STAND

India has taken a subtle pro-Russian stand regarding this issue and has refrained from calling Russia an aggressor.

India has abstained even from the UNSC resolution aimed at condemning Russia thereby taking forward the deft-diplomacy.

However, India has argued that war will not serve the purpose of any of the participating states, and dialogue and diplomacy have to be the ultimate solution.

TOPIC FOR THE NEXT CLASS: NATO, SCO, G7, G20, INDIAN DIASPORA, AND INDO-AFRICAN RELATIONSHIP.