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INTERNATIONAL RELATION Mind Maps



QUAD | Concept Class | IR Series Class #1

#1 What is QAUD?

Four-nation alliance of India, Australia, USA and Japan which was established in 2007

Origin of QAUD (Timeline) (a) 2004 - Tsunami → 2007 - Shinzo Abe's speech titled "Confluence of the Two Seas" → (b) 2012 → Democratic security diamond (c) 2015 - Japan - inducted as a regular partner in the Malabar naval exercise → (d) 2017 - Mechanism revived (e) 2020 → Australia - Included in Malabar exercise (f) 2020/2021 - High level meetings

#2 What are the factors behind revival of QUAD?

- (1) China's economic, military strength - assertive rise of China → Anti-status quo or revisionist power – seeks to change the existing global order → Create a Sino-centric world order.
- (2) Common threats : posed to region and global order from China
- (3) Common values: like democracy, rule of law, freedom of navigation etc.
- (4) India's : reduced hesitation to embrace closeness to USA – shrugging NAM
- (5) USA : desire to maintain its hegemony

#3 Should India join QUAD?

- (1) **No:** (a) SCS , Pacific - areas remote to its interests; (b) inability to meet China's economic or military challenge → India faces the territorial and maritime threat from China; (c) "Strategic autonomy" limits military alliance; (d) Technologically - West in not willing to supply defense technology; (e) USA seeks to draw India into USA-China confrontation.
- (2) **Yes:** (a) Indian perspective is inclusive and development oriented → Seeking partners and not alliances; (b) Counter Chinese aggression against India, create a deterrence e.g. Intelligence sharing with USA; (c) Provide security for its trade routes across South China Sea (d) Strengthen ties with ASEAN countries e.g. ADDM; (e) Emerge as NET SECURITY PROVIDER in the region e.g. Boost blue water naval capacity; (f) Leverage USA's soaring ties with China to boost economy and military technology e.g. Predator drones (g) Boost its military alliances and sale in the region e.g. Brahmos sales to Philippines.

#4 What is the Future of the QUAD?

- (1) Quad is here to stay: (a) Institutionalize the Quad → Practical and soft security framework; (b) Initiate deeper cultural and people to people connect; (c) Like NATO - promoted European political integration, Quad states must seek to establish solidarity and synergy before militarization.
- (2) Pace of intensification of QUAD depends on Chinese actions and aggression.

Related Concept Classes – QUAD: Militarization & economic angle, Chinese Cheque book diplomacy, BRI etc.

QUAD | Concept Class | IR Series Class #2

#1 What are the Policies adopted by China to assert its influence?

- (1) Policies of China: (a) Break first island chain = threatening Hong Kong and Taiwan; (b) Closed seas strategy = Claiming Sovereignty over entire SCS based on 9' line; (c) 'Island development' = Militarizing islands in SCS (d) Divide and Rule – ASEAN

#2 Chinese response to the QUAD?

- (1) ASIAN NATO; “Cold War mentality” ; “encirclement” strategy → Indo-Pacific and the Quad ->
- (2) Diplomacy → Wolf warrior diplomacy → ASEAN - negotiating the 'code of conduct' for SCS (Bilateral)
- (3) Economic → debt trap or predatory geo-economics = e.g. Sri Lanka, Hambantota port
- (4) Geopolitics → SBO, BRICS, AIIB - to expand its political alliances and influence
- (5) Geostrategic → 9' Line = Sovereignty over whole SCS; BRI
- (6) Military → South China Sea: Militarizing the Islands -> USA: Bridge the gap through asymmetrical means -developing area-denial strategies like long range carrier killer missiles Dong Feng 21D ->

#3 Why QUAD has been unable to emerge as strong group like SCO or BRICS? (Differing perspectives of members)

- (1) Economics/Trade with China: USA → \$ 500 BN; Japan → \$300 BN; EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI)
- (2) USA/JAPAN/Australia VS Indian approach: (a) Pacific centric approach Vs Indian ocean centric → area of focus; (b) Maritime centric vs Territorial angle → perception of threat; (c) Security centric vs Development centric → orientation of policy; (d) Exclusive vs inclusive → closed blocks vs open to all approach.
- (3) ASEAN Perspective: Divide and rule; Economic; Soft balancer
- (4) Indian Perspective of QUAD: Shangri LA 2018 - India called for free open and inclusive Indo-Pacific → Resilient supply chain initiative; Act East Policy; Indian initiatives like Sagarmala, Project Mausam, the Cotton Route; (SAGAR) can provide collaborative opportunities.

#4 How far has QUAD been successful in controlling China?

- (1) Limited: (a) QUAD lacks coherent view owing to diverging perspectives of nations; (b) India's reluctance to militarize QUAD limits its military application; (c) Other ASEAN nations not keen to join; (d) China still occupying islands across SCS
- (2) Evolving: (a) First ever heads of summit and unified statement issues in 2021 summit; (b) First joint QUAD/Malabar exercise; (c) Joint initiatives like Vaccine diplomacy; (d) Germany, France etc. announcing Indo-pacific strategy; (d) USA announced initiatives like AREA, BUILD act as alternatives to Chinese BRI;

Related Concept Classes –Chinese Cheque book diplomacy, SCS Dispute, BRI, India China dispute etc.

Chinese Foreign Policy – Cheque book diplomacy – Concept Class IR #3

#1 What is Cheque book diplomacy?

Type of diplomacy based on debt in the bilateral relations → creditor country extends excessive credit to another debtor country → intention of extracting economic or political concessions.

#2 What allows China to pursue such diplomacy?

- (1) Economic behemoth → estimated \$16 TN GDP → Forex 3 Tn
- (2) Expertise in Infrastructure development → Allows rapid completion of projects
- (3) Buttrressing repressive regimes → high rate loans
- (4) Entering secret negotiations → non-competitive pricing – requiring contracts go to Chinese State owned companies.
- (5) Massive diplomatic manoeuvres → BRI

#3 What are the impacts of such foreign policy

- (1) Using predatory geo-economics for geopolitical gains → ASEAN silent on PCA verdict, 2016
- (2) Acquiring strategic real estate for dual use – SL Hambantota Port
- (3) Silencing critiques, securing votes in UN → African and Caribbean nations
- (4) Able to keep competition out → Kenya, silenced the Joint Indo-Japan Africa Asia growth corridor
- (5) Secure natural resources to dominate global production → Afghanistan, Africa

#4 Places which have witnessed Chinese Debt trap

- (1) Asia : Pakistan : investing \$56 billion in CPEC - total debt burden of \$90 billion to be repaid in 30 years; → Sri Lanka : invested about \$9 billion – Hambantota port leased out for 99 years
- (2) Africa: Debt is acute in Zambia, → Djibouti and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); Djibouti: Debt at 80% of GDP, Lions share by China
- (3) Middle East: Oman: China to invest \$10 billion to build an industrial park by 2022, stake at strategic Duqm port.

#5 India Vs Chinese Model of development: Africa

- (1) Chinese – (a) Debt oriented; high rate of interest; (b) invests in large infrastructure projects; (c) Contracts should go to Chinese companies; (d) brings its own workers; (e) seen as neo-colonial and exploitative
- (2) India – “empower rather than extract” - (a) Development oriented; (b) also invests in rural projects; (c) human development – training – skilling; (d) large grants are also provided; (e) project are demand based and cater to local needs e.g. 194 projects in 37 countries with outlay of \$ 11 BN, DTF for LDC's, Pan Africa e-Network, e-VidhyaBharati, e-ArogyaBharti.

IR Theories | Concept Class | IR Series Class #4

#1 What is the utility of theories of IR?

(a) Based on scholarly research and work, not abstract debates; (b) provide structured understanding; (c) Provide framework to explain past events; (d) Provide framework to predict future events; (e) guide foreign policy makers in designing foreign policy

#2 What prominent theories which are useful for IR and GS?

(a) Idealism (b) Realism (c) Heartland theory (d) Rimland theory

#3 Idealism

Perpetual peace and cooperation; Depend on moral values; oppose war; advocate reform of international institutions and law; e.g. UN, UNPKF, NAM

#4 Realism

Emphasis on security dilemma; Conflict and competition; advocate strong military and war; e.g. NATO, Col war

#5 Heartland theory

Given by Mackinder, 1904; Theory of global domination; World is divided into – world Island (includes heartland), offshore Islands and Outer island; whoever rules east Europe command heartland → command world island → commands the world;

#6 Rimland theory theory

Given by Spykman; Criticized Mackinder; Rimland consists of European coast, Arabia-Middle east, Asiatic monsoon land; Whoever rules east Europe command heartland → command world island → commands the world;

#7 What is the relevance of these theories today?

(a) USA has security architecture in place across entire Rimland; (b) Chinese BRI – Maritime silk route secures Rimland, Land route cuts across Heartland; (c) Chinese assertion, 9' line to secure Rimland; (d) India neighborhood first policy. Net security provider;

Israel-Palestine | Concept Class | IR Series Class #5

#1 What are the Major friction points between Israel and Palestine?

- (1) Conflicts: Political, Historical, religious, ideological
- (2) Current conflicts : (a) Borders of Israel; (b) Jerusalem; (c) Refugee problem; (d) Communal tension;
- (3) Jerusalem → holy to all 3 Abrahamic faiths - holy sites of temple mount → Jews; **Holy church of Sepulchre** → Christianity; Al Aqsa mosque → Islam

#2 What is the Historical background of evolution of conflict?

- (1) Israel → Mediterranean coast → Abrahamic faiths; Judaism → Small kingdoms - Kingdom of Israel, Judah; - Hebrew Bible - warfare between the Israelites and Philistines
- (2) Jerusalem → Old Testament - King David → Jerusalem as capital → Zion; Solomon → 1st temple in Jerusalem; Invasions → Surrounded by Mesopotamia and Egypt → Raided by Babylonian – Persians, Cyrus I → temple was rebuilt - Torah written.

#3 What gave religious color to this conflict?

- (1) Rise of Christianity: Romans – Pompeii, Julius Caesar; Bible – Jesus, Bethlehem; Christianity → kingdom of Judah; Roman Jew wars - banned from Jerusalem - Rome adopted Christianity – Constantine; Helena - pilgrimage - **Church of Holy Sepulchre**.
- (2) Rise of Islam: Conquest by Arabs → Jerusalem; persecution of Christians; ban on Jews lifted; Prophet Muhammed taken to be the Temple Mount; **Al-Aqsa Mosque; Ramallah** was built;
- (3) Crusades → 1099 1st Crusade took Jerusalem; Muslims and Jews massacred – Saladin(1187) took Jerusalem - 13th Century → rise of Mamluks and later the Ottoman empire;
- (4) Semitism: collapse of crusades; death of Christ; Black Death; favored the Islamic kings → Persecution and expulsion of Jews all over Europe.

#4 What is Zionism and political basis of the conflict?

- (1) Zionism: Age of nationalism; Create a Jewish land in Israel - currently Palestine, Ottomans; development of distinct Palestinian nationality; Development of Hebrew language; 1896 Theodor Herzl - Der Judenstaat (The Jewish State)
- (2) World war I; Central powers and allies; Balfour declaration - Sykes picot agreement - (Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine) - Jordan and Palestine under British mandate
- (3) Post World War I - Nazi party - German pride and anti-Semitism - Hitler and rising anti-Semitism; concentration camps
- (4) Increasing hostility between Jews and Arabs – 1929, temple wall and mount; 1947: British approached UNO → UNO - two state solution → Palestinian Arabs and state of Israel for Jews, Jerusalem to be under UN

Israel-Palestine | Concept Class | IR Series Class #6

#1 What are the factors behind Arab Israel hostility?

- (1) Two state solution – UN 1947 Resolution 181 – Palestine into (a) Arab State; (b) Jewish State; (c) Jerusalem;
- (2) Arab League – Arab liberation army; Britain withdrew, 1948; Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel on 14 May 1948;

#2 What is the history of Israel-Palestine/Arab conflict?

- (1) Arab Israeli war 1948: Israel gained 50% more territory; Jordan → west bank and Eastern Jerusalem; Egypt → Gaza strip;
- (2) Arab Israeli war: 1967, 6 day Arab-Israeli war; Israel → Golan heights from Syria; West bank and East Jerusalem → Jordan; Gaza strip and Sinai Peninsula → Egypt;
- (3) Yom Kippur War 1973: Stalemate; Israel able hold onto its gains

#3 What were the impacts of these wars on the Palestine Issue?

- (1) Perspectives: (a) Israel: can't infinitely maintain military domination; (b) Arabs – can't attain military solution; (c) Palestine – Arab interest reduced; (d) Palestine – disillusionment, rise of terror groups
- (2) Impetus to political negotiations - 1975: Uno grants observer status to PLO; 1978: Camp David accords; 1987: founding of Hamas; 1993: Oslo accords;
- (3) Progress: 2005: Israel begins unilateral withdrawal news from Gaza strip; 2006: Hamas scores victory in Palestinian elections; 2007: Palestinian movement split into Hamas (Gaza strip), and Fatah (West Bank)

#4 What are the current issues?

- (1) Borders of Israel: Palestinian view → Israel not demarcating borders; Israel → (a) non-committal on two state solution; (b) unwilling to give up strategic points like Golan Heights; (c) wants tight control on border crossings and checkpoints.
- (2) Jerusalem - 3 Abrahamic faiths; Christians → no political claim; , Others two religions → political claim; Israel → sovereignty over Jerusalem; Palestinians: 2 state solution with East Jerusalem as its capital
- (3) Palestinian refugees: During wars millions displaced; Israel → unwilling to accept return of refugees to the original properties – alters its demography; Palestinians → refugees should be allowed to return to their original land;
- (4) Illegal Israeli settlements in Gaza and West Bank; Threat of eviction from Sheikh Jarrah; Hamas Gaza attack
- (5) Terrorism: Fatah → denounces violence; Hamas → uses violence; Israel → military response to any violent act; disproportionate use of force; abuse of human rights; UN sanctions

#5 What is the current status and what are probable solutions?

- (1) Stakeholders: (a) Arab world – national interest; (b) Palestinian cause – divided; (c) UN – 2 state solution; (d) Israel – controls Palestine; unwilling for 2 state solution; (e) USA – largely supports Israel; (f) Turkey and China – recent entrants into the regional geopolitics
- (2) Possible solutions: (a) Unification of Palestinian movement; (b) politically negotiated peace between Israel and Palestine; (c) CBM's; (d) Eventual negotiated 2 state solution;

Related Concept Classes – Israel Palestine conflict, India Israel relations etc.



India-Israel | Concept Class | IR Series Class #7

#1 What is the background of India Israel relations?

- (1) Post 1947 two state solution, (2 state theory); recognized Israel in 1950; one of the 1st non-Arab countries to recognize PLO;
- (2) Factors: (a) India → NAM; (b) Israel → NATO; (c) Pakistan's plan to isolate India over Kashmir; (d) India's energy dependence over Gulf; (e) Indian diaspora in middle-east;
- (3) Improvements: 1962 war; 1965 war supplied ammunition; 1990's - breakup of USSR; Full diplomatic relations - 1992; 1990's → first gulf war → PLO sided with Saddam, lost its clout; 1998 Kargil war; Didn't condemn India's 1998 nuclear tests; Cooperation in SNT and agriculture;

#2 Why some scholars say India's stand is changing?

- (1) 2015 Presidential visit; Prime minister's visit; 2015 → abstained from voting against Israel; 2018 → link West policy, de-hyphenate Israel Palestine relation; 2019 → voted in favor of Israel which granted observer status to a Palestinian NGO; increasing defense deals;

#3 Why ties with Israel are important to India?

- (1) Defense deals: SIPRI 3rd largest defense supplier;
- (2) National security and counter-terrorism: backs India's defence against terror; didn't condemn India's nuclear tests in 1998; Mumbai attack, 2008 JWG; Border security
- (3) Water and agriculture: foremost technology superpowers; desalination; dryland agriculture; river polluted abatement;
- (4) Commercial trade: diamond traders in Gujarat; \$200 Mn to \$5 Bn; SnT, agri, biotech, space;
- (5) Tourism: P2P relations; Young Israelis wanting to unwind after their compulsory military service;
- (6) Start-ups: Israel nearly 4,500 start-ups and 140 incubators/accelerators.

#4 What is the significance of Defense cooperation with Israel?

- (1) Nature: From buyer-seller to joint development & production; military modernization & commercialization;
- (2) Reliable supplier or 'no questions asked supplier'; transfer of most advanced technology; joint design and development; Upgrading platforms; Platforms → UAV - Herons; Bombs - SPICE 2000; Barak 8 Missile defence systems;

#5 Has India really given up on Palestinian cause?

- (1) Co-sponsored draft resolution on Palestinian right of self-determination; 1967 & 1973 - declared Israel as aggressor; Voted for Palestine to become a full member of UNESCO in 2011;
- (2) Contributing material and technical assistance; budgetary assistance - US\$ 30 Mn; library in Al-Azhar University; USD 1.25 million to the UN relief agency for Palestinian refugees;
- (3) Capacity building; scholarships under the ITEC;
- (4) UN: 2014, UNHRC resolution for probing HR violations; 2018, opposing Trumps recognition of Jerusalem; Recent: support just Palestinian cause, 2 state solution, did not oppose actions of Israel

#6 What should be India's policy going forward: Continuity with change?

- (1) Subsiding support for Palestinian cause; divided Palestinian cause; Indian national security and national interest; Iran Turkey support Palestinian cause and Hamas; Saudi and UAE de-facto allies of Israel; USA is losing its significance; Chinese gaining ground; Iran increasing its influence;
- (2) Political negotiation - Sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital



India-China border dispute | Concept Class | IR Series Class #8

#1 What is the historical background of the dispute?

1. British security architecture; two level - Tibet and Himalayan States;
2. 1954 China took over Tibet; made China as India's neighbour; 1957 - took over Aksai Chin; Mao and 5 fingers theory;

#2 What is the dispute and what are disputed regions?

1. 3 sectors; West, Central and East; (1600, 500, 1300 km)
2. West:
 - a. Tripartite Shimla agreement 1914; McMahon line ; China refused to sign;
 - b. Tibet is not sovereign country; China claims entire Arunachal Pradesh- Tibet of 11th century not 1914;
3. East :
 - a. Johnson line (1865); McDonald line (1893); 1957 Aksai Chin; 1962 LAC; Shaksgam Valley; CPEC;
 - b. Recent sovereignty claim over Ladakh;

#3 What are the reasons for current stand off?

1. Article 370; Gilgit Baltistan and CPEC; Infrastructure in Ladakh (DSDBO) ; Indo Pacific & QUAD; Internal Chinese politics – COVID mishandling, leadership struggle; Salami slicing;
2. Chinese Salami slicing; Doklam stand-off: Tri-junctional of India-Bhutan-China; Strategic chicken neck corridor;

#4 What steps have been taken to resolve the border dispute?

1. 1993 - border peace and tranquility agreement; 2003 special representative mechanism; 2005 political parameters for negotiations;
2. 2012 - working mechanism for Consultation and Coordination; 2013 border defense cooperation agreement; Wuhan (2018) & Mahabalipuram summit (2019);

#5 What is the way forward?

1. Indian view: border agreement vital for good relations
2. Chinese view: border agreement outcome of good relations
3. Scholars : keeping the option open to check India
4. UPSC: diplomacy; Bilateral agreements and Wuhan Spirit;

South China Sea | Concept Class | IR Series Class #9

#1 What is the SCS?

1. SCS → Arm of western Pacific Ocean in Southeast Asia; connected by Taiwan Strait with the East China Sea and by Luzon Strait with the Philippine Sea;
2. Maritime boundary disputes : parties to dispute → Brunei, the People's Republic of China (PRC), Taiwan (Republic of China/ROC), Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam;

#2 What are the disputed territories?

1. **(a) Parcel Islands** → China, Taiwan and Vietnam; **(b) Spratly Islands** → China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Brunei and Philippines; **(c) Scarborough Shoal** → Philippines, China and Taiwan; **(d) Natuna Island** → Indonesia's EEZ; (e) others → **Pratas Island, Mischief reef**;
2. Issues → Maritime boundary; EEZ; control over shipping lanes; strategic islands; Islands → Parcel Islands, the Spratly Islands and the Scarborough Shoal, Natuna Island;

#3 What are the basis of the claims of different parties?

1. WWII → Japanese control; later gave up; Chinese made first claims;
2. China → 1947 Kuomintang party; 1997 Nine-dash line claim; Historical basis
3. Vietnam → Geneva accord 1954(1st Indo China war); South Vietnam - 17th Parallel - Spratly, Parcel; Historical - ruled since 17th century; China never claimed before 1940;
4. Philippines → Scarborough; Historical; to parts within its EEZ (100 M vs 500 M); Luzon strait and boundary north of Luzon and Palawan
5. Indonesia → Natuna Island - EEZ; Malaysia → Parts of Spratly - Continental shelf - Legal as per UNCLOS; Brunei → EEZ; s

#4 What are the causes of SCS disputes?

1. Importance of SCS → UNCTAD - 55% of world trade; 80% Chinese oil supply; ONG; Fisheries;
2. Change in Chinese foreign policy – from peaceful rise to assertive china; breaking the 1st island chain; regional dominance; ability to project military strength;
3. Geostrategic → Malacca strait - entry to Indian Ocean; Securing and Dominating SLOC; Closed seas concept; counter USA's military security architecture;
4. UNCLOS → Differing perception of EEZ; un-demarcated maritime border and claims; inability to enforce decisions;

#5 What is the International law/mechanism regarding such disputes?

1. UNCLOS 1994; Territorial waters, EEZ; Thalweg principle; International tribunal on law of seas;
2. Arbitration mechanism → PCS (2016 Philippines award)

#6 What is the stand of various parties?

1. China → Sovereignty over SCS; ASEAN – divide and rule; Countries – bilateral; artificial island building in Spratly and Parcel; Objects to Indian/other naval vessels in SCS; Use of maritime militia; recent amendment to coast guard law;
2. USA - not a party to UNCLOS, but recognizes it; rejects Chinese claims; conducts FONOPS;

3. INDIA → not a party to dispute; settle as per international law; FONOPS; Peaceful resolution; act East policy; Indo-Pacific; Oil exploration with PetroVietnam;
4. ASEAN → Code of conduct; 2020 UNCLOS; lack of unity – internal divide; no confrontation; Soft balancer; Philippines: international tribunal 2016;

#7 What is the future of the dispute?

1. ASEAN → Code of conduct; Indo Pacific: confrontation; India: larger, active role
2. China → Deal bilaterally; reject UNCLOS; Divide and rule ASEAN
3. Extra territorial powers: Britain; Germany; EU;

Related Concept Classes –India China relations, South China sea dispute etc.



India China Relations | Concept Class | IR Series Class #10

#1 What is the background of political relations?

1. April 1 1950; first non-communist country to recognize PRC or mainland China; 1954 Zhou Enlai visit → Panchsheel agreement; Hindi-Chini bhai-bhai era; Nehruvian vision of Asian century;
2. 1957 Aksai Chin issue; Dalai Lama took refuge in India; Nehru's forward policy; 1962 war - LAC; 1967 skirmish; 1980's Arunachal standoff; 1988 Rajiv Gandhi visit; thawing of relations; Political and economic engagement; Border agreements;

#2 What is the economic aspect of the relationship?

1. Economic ties → backbone of India-China relations; Trade - 2000 3 BN to 100Bn; deficit 60Bn; strategic economic dialogue (SED) → advancement of economic engagement;
2. Joint economic group on science and technology; seeking Chinese investment and technology;

#3 What are the issues in India China relations?

1. Border dispute → hesitancy in quick resolution; border encroachment and salami slicing;
2. Pakistan → CPEC and POK - violates Indian sovereignty; Terrorism → Masood Azhar - advocates technical hurdles;
3. Economic → trade deficit; market access to Indian Pharma and IT; dumping in Indian market;
4. Regional → support to Pakistan; encirclement in neighborhood; internal security challenges;
5. Geo-strategic → string of pearls, Himalayan QUAD; foray in IOR; Russia-China alliance; NSG membership - non supportive; UNSC membership - non-committal;
6. Others : Water → Brahmaputra; Dams; Water data sharing; diversion of rivers; Cyber threat → Cyber-attacks; security of critical infrastructure; Hardware dependence;

#4 Why India China relations are important?

1. Vision of Asian century - shifting power balance and center of economic activity; development of underdeveloped South Asian region; infrastructure and technology advancement;
2. Global issues → environment, WTO;
3. Global governance → democratizing global institutions, UN reforms; WTO and IMF reforms;
4. Multilateral → BRICS and SCO- regional cooperation and regional integration; counter terrorism and peace in Afghanistan; development in Central Asia
5. Indian foreign policy → Strategic autonomy; extract maximum out of USA-China; regional stability; India's internal security – insurgency in North-east;

#5 What is the future course of India China relations?

1. Rivals at regional and sub regional level; competition and cooperation at global level;
2. Diplomatic progress → Identify areas of cooperation; CBM; Dispute resolution
3. Economic → Economic decoupling; resilient supply chain; reduce trade deficit;
4. Global and multilateral → continued engagement to further India's interest → SCO, BRICS, UN; Indo-Pacific initiative; QAUD engagement; increased military tie ups; counter encirclement;

5. Political level → continued diplomatic engagement; Political rivalry in the region;
6. Military → rapid infrastructure building across Northern borders; Credible deterrence against China & punitive deterrence against Pakistan;

Related Concept Classes – BRICS, SCO.



Indian maritime diplomacy | Concept Class | IR Series Class #11

This document covers 2 important concepts: 'Blue water navy' & 'Net security provider'

#1 What is Blue Water Navy?

1. Indian navy vision document 2005 : Make India a blue water navy;
2. Project over bigger maritime area than its maritime borders; can operate far off from shore for extended durations; project power across multiple continents; ability to replenish surface and sub-surface vessels at sea;
3. Threaten assets of other countries far off from shore; protect its assets from surface, sub-surface and aerial threats;

#2 What are the ingredients of Blue water Navy?

1. Naval assets → Aircraft carriers; nuclear powered ships; nuclear submarines; foreign logistic bases; interoperability with other Navy; resupply ships;
2. Allies → access to foreign naval bases – LEMOA (USA); alliances - QUAD; logistics agreements;

#3 What is the meaning of Net Security Provider (NSP)?

1. Tackles its own security concerns by enhancing the mutual security of more than one country;
2. The state of actual security, upon balancing prevailing threats;
3. Cooperative instead of competitive security; comprehensive rather than merely military security;

#4 What are the ingredients of a becoming a Net Security provider?

1. Capacity building → training of foreign forces; patrol vessels; coastal surveillance radars;
2. Military diplomacy → military visits; exercises;
3. Military assistance → selling of weapons; India is ambivalent;
4. Direct deployment of military forces → military operation; humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR);

#5 What are the steps taken by India to become NSP in IOR?

1. Defense indigenization → domestic production; technology advancement;
2. Military engagement → Sale and transfer of military equipment → Brahmos to Philippines; Access to foreign bases – Changi (Singapore), Duqm (Oman), Assumptions islands (Seychelles);
3. Military exercises → SIMBEX; SLINEX; Joint naval patrols – Arabian sea;
4. Regional cooperation → Multilateral engagement; IOR, Indian Ocean naval symposium; LEMOA – USA; ACSA (Acquisition and cross service agreement) – Japan;

Related Concept Classes – Indo Pacific, Indian Ocean region etc.

Indian Nuclear Doctrine | Concept Class | IR Series Class #12

#1 What are the Core principles of India's nuclear doctrine?

1. India's nuclear tests – Smiling Buddha (1974); Shakti (1998)
2. Core principles - No first use; No use against non-nuclear country; credible minimum deterrence; response will be punitive and massive;

#2 What is NPT (Nonproliferation treaty)?

1. Background → Entered into force in 1970; Parties met in 1995 and extended indefinitely; 191 parties; 4 states have never accepted it - India, Israel, Pakistan, Sudan; North Korea withdrew;
2. Pillars → non-proliferation, disarmament, and the right to peacefully use nuclear technology;
3. Supporting mechanism → NSG, IAEA, and CTBT;
4. Working → two categories of States; 3 pillars; States → NWS: Nuclear weapon states; NNWS: Non-nuclear weapon states;

#3 What is CTBT?

1. Multilateral treaty; bans civil & nuclear test in all environment; adopted in 1996; not entered into force;
2. Background → (1954 standstill agreement; 1964 PTBT; 1996 CTBT); PTBT : Between trinity test (July 1945) & PTBT (1963) - 500 tests conducted; Impact - nuclear arms race; nuclear fallout, water and environmental pollution; thermonuclear test;
3. 1954 : Nehru - "standstill agreement"; Post CTBT - nuclear testing reduced significantly;
4. Monitoring of tests → CTBTO; forensic seismology; infrasound; radionuclide monitoring;

#4 What are the Indian objections against signing NPT/CTBT?

1. Discriminatory → Nuclear apartheid - NWS and Non NWS; legalizes possession of nuclear weapons of p5;
2. Horizontal proliferation → Prohibits only horizontal but not vertical proliferation; developed countries have computer simulated testing models;
3. Stockpiling → no restrictions on stockpiling by p5; NWS have 13,400 war heads; doesn't check intensity of new nuclear warheads;
4. Inspection → IAEA norms relaxed for p5; NNWS – strict inspection;
5. Disarmament → totally neglected; failed summits and conventions; illegal arms trade;
6. Proliferation → still ongoing e.g. N Korea, Pakistan;

#5 Should India amend/ditch no first use policy?

1. **Yes** → Requires 2nd strike capability – costly nuclear triad; Pakistan - first use nuclear weapons against India; Pakistan – miniature and theatre level nuclear weapons; China interfered despite India's nuclear weapons; Pak and China increasing warheads;
2. **No** → Nuclear - political weapons not viable military option; check nuclear arms race; Pakistan - Conventional force sufficient; China - nuclear will lead to mutual self-destruction;
3. **Amend** → To reflect new 2 front threat scenario – Pakistan and China; Indian nuclear weapons could not deter Chinese aggression in Ladakh; India's weak second strike capability;

UNSC permanent seat | Concept Class | IR Series Class #13

#1 What is UNSC?

1. UN → United Nations - intergovernmental organization - international peace and security; 1945 HQ New York City;
2. UNSC - security Council - 1 of the 6 principal organs;
3. Objectives → ensuring international peace and security; admission of new UN members; approving any changes to the UN Charter;
4. Powers → p5 Veto; establishing peacekeeping operations; enacting international sanctions; authorizing military action; authority to issue binding resolutions;
5. Structure → permanent and non-permanent members; permanent - p5; temporary - 6; 1965 expanded to 10; 2 year term; rotational basis on basis of region;

#2 Why does India deserve a UNSC permanent seat?

1. (a) Current structure undemocratic; (b) responsible nuclear power; (c) Proved leadership role in NAM; (a) peace - maintain peace in neighborhood; (d) UNSC → served as non-permanent member; (e) Economy → third largest economy by PPP, economic contribution doubled in last 60 years; (f) Military → 4th largest military; (g) peacekeeping → UNPKF 49/71 missions, more than 2L troops;

#3 Why do some countries oppose Indian selection to UNSC?

1. Non responsible nuclear power - not signed CTBT and NPT;
2. Non peaceful - history of wars with China Pakistan;
3. Big brother attitude (regional hegemon)- Internal interference in Sri Lanka Nepal;
4. Leadership - failure to even lead SAARC;
5. Internal issues - human rights violations;
6. Other issues – no clarity on criteria for granting seats; p5 countries not explicit for support on paper at UNSC meetings; amending UNSC charter is onerous process; may open Pandora's box for other countries demanding it;

#4 Should India seek permanent UNSC seat?

1. **NO**: Defunct body; members work in self-interest; India spent enough diplomatic capital; Chinese veto;
2. **Yes** : Shape global rules; contribute to global peace; secure own and regional interest; institutionalize India global position; counter Chinese influence; can defend sanctions against India e.g. Kashmir issue

#5 What steps has India taken to work for UNSC permanent seats?

1. Bilaterally – seeking support from p5; humanitarian assistance in Africa and small Island nations; UNPKF; calling UNSC reforms;
2. UN - raising opinion; calling for text based negotiations;
3. Multilateral – forming groups like G4 (India, Japan, Germany, Brazil)- opposed by UFC or coffee club;

India Iran relations | Concept Class | IR Series Class #14

#1 What is the background of India-Iran relations?

1. Historical → Persian empire; cultural exchanges through silk route; Mughals and Persian influence; about 70,00 Parsis in India; Sufism; Shia Muslim population;
2. Post-Independence → Partition – Pakistan propped up, separated Persian and Indus civilization; India NAM vs Iranian proximity to USA; 1979 Iranian revolution (improved); Iran Iraq war (sourer);

#2 What is the Importance of Iran to India?

1. Strategic location → One of the three power blocks in West Asia (Shia-Sunni-Jews); golden gate way to energy rich Central Asia; strategic neighbour of Pakistan and Afghanistan; counter terrorism and regional security;
2. Peripheral diplomacy → counter encirclement of China; engaging Central Asia - counter BRI; Connectivity to Russia - INSTC;
3. West Asia → balance West Asia foreign policy; diaspora in West Asia 8 million;
4. Energy security → second largest oil supplier till 2010; largest known reserves of gas; provides best price, cheap insurance, low sulfur oil suited for Indian refineries, easy repayment terms; agreed for Rupee exchange program through UCO bank;
5. Geo-political → withdrawal of USA; power vacuum in West Asia; increasing Chinese foray; access under developed Central Asian markets;

#3 What is JCPOA or Iran nuclear deal?

1. Background → Signed Obama 2015; withdrawn Trump 2018; Biden may rejoin; Maximum pressure technique - forced onto negotiation table;
2. Terms → Constrained enrichment; verification by IAEA; reduce uranium stockpile; reduce enrichment levels; reduce number of centrifuges;
3. Reasons for USA pull out → Israel lobby; Iran just one year away from nuclear weapon; deal expires in 2030; doesn't address terrorism like Hamas and Hezbollah; doesn't address Iran's ballistic missiles program;
4. EU response → INSTEX (Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges)- limited trade deal, barter mechanism; Indian - restricted trade with Iran; China continued trade;

#4 What is the recent trend of India-Iran relations?

1. USA sanctions; Iran unhappy with India following USA sanctions; reduced Iranian oil imports;
2. Chinese deal : 25 years , 400 billion dollars; energy investment security and military; port at Jask, strait of Hormuz; 5000 security personnel;
3. delayed projects – companies reluctant to violate USA sanctions; Chbahar project – behind schedule; Delaram-Zaranj railway line – stuck, Iran decided to develop it itself; Farzad B gas field – taken away from India;

#5 What are the Issues that India faces in relations with Iran?

1. USA → USA Iran hostility; Iranian nuclear program; support to HAMAS & Hezbollah; threat to Persian gulf; Sanctions and payment to Iran – rupee mechanism through UCO bank;
2. China → Increasing footprint; strategic deal; reduced Indian projects; Iranian policy change;
3. Israel and Saudi Arabia → doesn't recognize Israel; Hostile to Saudi; both good partners of India;

4. Structural issues → reduced Indian capacity to deliver on projects;

#6 What is the future trajectory of India-Iran relations?

1. Expected JCPOA revival; Reduced USA sanctions; increased oil trade; better political and economic relations; India to increase delivery capacity; garner US support for Iran;
2. Increasing Chinese influence; reduced scope of India's strategic depth in Iran;
3. Iran : not put all eggs in Chinese basket; seek to balance relation with major powers including India



India Russia relations | Concept Class | IR Series Class #15

#1 What is the background of India Russia relations?

1. Cold war era → strong strategic relations; Nehru & Nikita Khrushchev visit 1955; Post Sino-India war helped in military modernization; brokered 1965 India-Pak peace; 1971 reportedly held off 7th fleet of USA – Indo Soviet treaty of friendship and cooperation – 20 years; Post collapse of USSR Russia inherited relations;
2. Big power politics since 1950's - global politics interplay of QUADRILATERAL (and will continue to be so) of USA-RUSSIA-CHINA-INDIA → relations and equations dynamic → only constant has been India-Russia (USSR) relations; 1950 & 1960 → USSR + China vs USA, India neutral; 1970's to 1990's → USA (China sided with USA) vs Russia (India seen in USSR camp, but neutral); 2000's → USA vs CHINA (Russia and India neutral); Current (post Crimea) USA vs CHINA + Russia (India seen tilting towards USA, but India Russia relations still good);

#2 What are the pillars of India Russia relations?

1. 5 major components: politics, defense, civil nuclear energy, anti-terrorism co-operation and space
2. (a) Defense → since 1972 war – Mig airplanes, T 72 tanks; Coproduction of Sukhoi 31; Joint development of Brahmos; transfer of cutting edge technology like nuclear submarine; (b) Nuclear → Kudankulam nuclear plants; 16 to 18 new reactors in pipeline; reliable supplier despite 1998 nuclear tests; (c) Space → Aryabhata launched by USSR; Rakesh Sharma; (d) Cooperation on GLONASS, Chandrayaan-2;

#3 Why do some scholars points that India Russia relations are weakening?

- (a) Geopolitical differences → Syria issue, Iran Nuclear Deal; (b) China → Russian economy dependent on Chinese investment, increasing high end military sale – Su 35, S 400; deteriorating USA & Russia relations - CAATSA; (c) Afghanistan → Russian engagement of Taliban, not inviting India to peace talks; (d) Pakistan → supplying arms to Pakistan, joint military drills, recent high level visits; (e) Defense → India buying western weapons, reduced defense engagement; costly maintenance of Russian equipment; issues in joint production e.g. FGFA project; lower technology compared to western systems e.g. Rafale (f) Economy → underutilized potential, poor business linkages; \$10 Bn trade; (g) people to people contacts → low and reducing;

#4 India Russia relations have strengthened and transformed?

1. Earlier India was rising power and dependent; now – itself one of the pole; has to secure its interest; relations – guided by strengthening Indian position and influence
2. Bilateral → Special strategic partnership; dedicated technical and economic cooperation groups; provided arms to India during Indo-China standoff; annual presidential visits;
3. Defense → India diversifying relations and not reducing Russian arms; moving from buyer seller to joint production and development e.g. Brahmos; Still high end deals – S 400;
4. Multilateral engagement → RIC platform; facilitated Indian entry into SCO; Invited India to Eurasian economic forum; BRICS – NDB etc.

5. Geopolitical → Supports India's place in UNSC; supports multipolar world; balancing USA and Chinese hegemony; Relations grown; become multifaceted and transformed;

#5 What is the future course of India Russia relations?

1. (a) Shared common interest – Multipolar world; preventing USA or Chinese hegemony; (b) counter terrorism and peace in Afghanistan; (c) economic development; Energy security – India investing in Russian Far East – Sakhalin oil fields; (d) Nuclear energy; USA factor – Russia needs India to balance USA and China; (e) China factor – to balance China in central Asia – SCO, INSTC; (f) multipolar world – India Russia relations constantly good, both powers need each other in future;
2. Need: (a) Energy cooperation – Sakhalin oil fields; (b) economic engagement e.g. Chennai Vladivostok corridor; (c) p2p contacts; (d) joint defense production e.g. Ka-226T; central Asia e.g. INSTC;



USA's Afghan exit | Concept Class | IR Series Class #16

#1 What is the background of USA-Taliban issue?

1. Religious homogeneous → Islamic; ethnically divided into numerous tribes; Pashtuns are the largest tribal group; Northern alliance - Tajiks, Uzbeks; Internal conflict – Pashtuns vs Northern alliance;
2. Politically → no centralized rule or government; tribal loyalties; lack of Central army or police; inter-tribal conflicts;
3. Economically → very poor – 12% land cultivable; resource rich but under developed; human capital- under developed; resort to poppy, arms trade, terror financing;
4. Ethnic composition → Pashtuns → most dominant group - 42%; Greek scholar Herodotus mentions → Pactyans; Tajik → second largest group - 27%, Persian speaking; Herat, mazar-e-sharif, Kabul; Hazara → Central Afghanistan; Shia Muslims; Uzbek → Turkik origin; Baloch → around Balochistan;

#2 What is Taliban and what is/was America's war on terror?

1. USSR 1979; supported Northern alliance; USA along with Pakistan supported Mujahedeen's; USSR withdrawal;
2. USA left Taliban unattended; supported by Pakistan Taliban gained Power; Osama bin Laden joined hands with Taliban; Taliban further radicalized by Al Qaeda;
3. Post 9/11 → ultimatum to Taliban to hand over Osama bin Laden; direct attack on Afghanistan; ousted Taliban government with the support of Northern alliance;
4. caretaker government installed; elections held; ISAF - coalition force of 43 countries;
5. ANSF → Afghan army; Taliban began to regroup and consolidate; 2011 Osama bin Laden killed; 2014 ISAF declared withdrawal; 2021 - American withdrawal;

#3 What is the ground situation in Afghanistan?

1. Taliban → resilient; resurgent; proved it is permanent player in Afghan polity; claims stake in political power; rise in violence; gradually expanding territory under its control; created government in exile;
2. USA → seeks honorable exit; spent more than 2 trillion dollars; more than 2,000 soldiers; war fatigue; other prominent threat like China and Russia entering Afghan peace process; graveyard of empires – USA doesn't want Afghan to become it's graveyard;
3. USA-Taliban peace deal (Qatar) → USA - withdrawal of forces, remove sanctions on Taliban leaders; Taliban – ceasefire, political solution, release prisoners;
4. Issues with deal → one sided; not sanctioned by Afghan government; Taliban seeks Islamic caliphate, Sharia law; violence continues; internally divided into semi-autonomous groups; Intra Afghan crisis (Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah); ethnic fissures → Pashtuns vs Tajiks;

USA's Afghan exit | Concept Class | IR Series Class #17

#1 What is the interest of various stakeholders in Afghanistan?

1. India → (a) Gateway to Central Asia; Kashmir; (b) terrorism and internal security; (c) sandwich Pakistan from both sides; (d) reduce Pakistan to marginal player in South Asia; (e) regional peace and stability; (f) counter terrorism; (g) access to rich natural resources – Iron ore, Copper etc.;
2. USA → (a) de-radicalization and counter terrorism; (b) extraction of natural resources; (c) counter Iran's influence in region by surrounding it from 2 sides;
3. China → (a) fill vacuum created by USA's withdrawal; (b) expanding BRI & CPEC; (c) check terrorism in Xinjiang and Uighurs issue; (d) reduce Indian footprint in the region; (e) investment in mining and other projects; (f) strengthen its linkages with Iran;
4. Russia → (a) reduce the presence of USA and NATO forces around its borders and allies; (b) counter terrorism emanating from Afghanistan which disturbs caucas region, Chechen region; (c) increase its influence in South Asia and West Asia;
5. Pakistan → (a) Strong Afghanistan and army might pose border challenge amidst Durand line issue; (b) strategic depth of ISI in the region; (c) uses Taliban to gain leverage over USA; (d) check Indian influence on its western borders; (e) cultivate Taliban; pedal drugs into India; (f) export arms and terrorism into India;

#2 What will be Impact of USA's withdrawal?

1. Taliban → increased role in politics, increased violence, ; Pakistan - strategic depth, USA needs Pakistan for logistics support, increased refugee flow, increased terror attacks inside Pakistan (bad Taliban); China - increase role in market, increased terrorism impacting Uighurs, CPEC extension to Afghanistan;
2. India → seeks 'Afghan led, afghan owned, afghan controlled' peace process, 'double peace' – peace within and in Afghanistan's neighborhood, increased vulnerability to Taliban attack, reduced footprint in Afghan polity and society; probable rise of Taliban and deterioration in India-Afghanistan relations; rise in terrorism, terror funding and arms export to Kashmir terror groups; increased drugs infiltration particularly around regions bordering Pakistan;
3. USA → reduced footprint in the region; more focus on Indo-pacific; increased dependence on Pakistan and its military bases;
4. China → increased role in the region; increased investment and attempts to pull Afghanistan into its sphere of influence;
5. Domestic Stakeholders → strengthen position of Pashtuns vis-à-vis other tribes; Political turmoil between Ghani and Abdullah might intensify; democracy may suffer; chances of another civil war; drugs trade may intensify; ANSF will weaken, desertion in army;

#3 What is the way forward to peace?

1. Intra Afghan talks; permanent ceasefire between warring parties; setting up regional security architecture – through multilateral mechanism like SCO; economic development of Afghanistan; strengthen ANSF, Afghan army to tackle Taliban and enforce rule of law;

India Afghanistan relations | Concept Class | IR Series Class #18

#1 What is the history of India-Afghanistan relations?

1. Linked to Indus valley civilization; seat of Taxila; Buddhist culture; Mauryan empire; Many invaders like Ghaznavids, Gaurids, Khalji, Suri, Mughals;
2. The great game → British invasion of Afghanistan to safeguard India from Russia; Anglo-Afghan wars;
3. Partition → creation of Pakistan; geographical linkage to Afghanistan broken; jolt to ties; improved later;

#2 Why is Afghanistan important to India?

1. Location → Gateway to central Asia; Key to push Pakistan strategically out of South Asian politics;
2. Security → Security of Karakorum corridor; Stabilizing Eurasian region against terrorism; Energy security through energy trade with central Asia;
3. Economic → Mineral reserves – Hajigak & Aynak mines, access Afghani and central Asian markets; Sandwich Pakistan; India provides duty free access to Afghanistan goods;
4. Internal security – restoring normalcy in Kashmir, De-radicalization;
5. Geostrategic – double encirclement of Pakistan; Reduce Pakistan to a regional player; ensure vacuum created by USA withdrawal is not filled by China; India signed Strategic partnership agreement in 2011;

#3 How has India contributed to development of Afghanistan?

1. Evolution → Initially humanitarian; 2nd phase economic and capacity building; 3rd defence relations;
2. Humanitarian → food supply, grains, Indira Gandhi multispecialty hospital; cold storages, ware houses;
3. Economic → infrastructure – SALMA dam; Afghani parliament; Garland highway; SAIL steel plant, hydro-power plants;
4. Defense → Training ANSF; providing surveillance equipment, military training; providing attack helicopter → Mi25 Hind; assisting in conducting elections;

#4 What are the challenges in India-Afghanistan relations?

1. Landlocked – Pakistan blocked Indian access, Iran slipping in Chinese sphere; security and safety of Indian personnel's; drug trafficking; India not party to peace processes; Rising influence of Taliban; Pakistan desire to ouster India from Afghanistan;
2. Pakistan's soft power in Afghanistan – religion ideology, madrasas; increasing Chinese influence – e.g. Hajigak mines, CPEC extension; Russian stance on Taliban;

#5 What is the future of India-Afghan relations?

1. Chabahar port – reduces Afghan's dependence on Pakistan; Soft power – Bollywood to capacity building; goodwill – humanitarian assistance; USA- favoring India's role in Afghanistan; Indian investment - >2 BN in Afghanistan; Trade – wheat from India to dry fruits from Afghanistan;
2. Indian presence is deep and commands goodwill; Iran provides physical access and USA facilitated seat at high table; relations on upswing with great economic and social potential;
3. USA's withdrawal :
 - a. Challenges → possible destabilization of Afghanistan; resurgence of Taliban; security challenge in Kashmir; drug problem in Punjab; radicalization of Indian youth; arms trade; threat to Indian investment in Afghanistan; increased role of China;

- b. Opportunity → USA facilitating India in peace process; increased dependence of ANSF on India; increased role of SCO for counter terrorism; increased regional and global profile of India.



India-West Asia | Concept Class | IR Series Class #19

#1 What is the background of relations with West Asia?

1. Historically limited, passive player; During cold war years → maintained close economic coop with both Saudi Arabia & Iran (rivals); Post-Soviet world → bidirectional approach expanded to tri directional foreign policy → Saudi Arabia, Iran Israel;
2. **Focus** → balance all 3 power centers of West Asia—Sunni(Saudi), Shia(Iran), Jew (Israel);
3. **Evolution-2 phases:**
 - a. **Pre 1991** → Political distance, Cold war politics, India relation with Israel frozen because of pro Palestine positions
 - b. **Post 1991** → end of cold war, disintegration of soviet; India's growing demand for oil & gas; moving away from its traditional NAM approach;

#2 Why West Asia is important for India?

1. Diaspora → 11 Mn Indian working; > 50BN remittance; Energy security - 70% of India's oil imports;
2. **(a)** Integral part of Indo Pacific maritime domain; **(a)** Internal security → counter terrorism; organized crime – drugs; To counter radicalization; **(b)** Connectivity → Gate way to Central Asia, regional connectivity – INSTC through Iran; **(c)** Defense → defense cooperation; defense deal and trade; defense/naval ports eg. Duqm, Oman; **(d)** Culture & Religion → India hosts 2nd largest Muslim population in world; pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia; 2nd largest Shia population outside Iran; **(e)** Geostrategic Imp → reduce influence of China in west Asia & Arabian Sea; **(f)** Trade & economy → UAE in top 3 trading partners over the decade; seeking investment e.g. Saudi Arabia plan to invest \$100BN in India;

#3 What is the recent trend in relations with West Asia? (from economic to strategic)

1. USA pivot to ASIA, power vacuum - created space for India; Indian LOOK West Policy in 2005; 1st Ministerial Meeting of Arab-India Cooperation Forum (2016 in @Bahrain)
2. **India-Saudi-Arabia** → Largest supplier of Crude Oil, cooperation in Counter terrorism & Intelligence sharing, 2010- **Riyadh declaration** cooperation in economic, defense & Security sphere; Modi received King Abdulaziz Sash Award of Saudi Arabia in 2016; **Issue** → Saudi historical ally of Pak; Saudi-Iran rivalry, aggressive Saudi foreign policy in West Asia;
3. **India-UAE** → Strategic relationship; agreed to fight radicalization & Misuse of religion; both work towards adoption of India proposed comprehensive convention on international terrorism in UN; support India bidding for permanent seat in UNSC; Modi received Order of Zayed UAE Highest civil decoration in 2019;
4. **India-Qatar** → Cooperation in tourism, Health, Youth & sports, Skill Dev & recognition of Qualification; Mutual Assistance in Custom Matters, money laundering, Terrorism Finance & related crimes;
5. **India-Bahrain** → Modi received King Hamad Order of the Renaissance', the third-highest civilian order of Bahrain in 2019. (Iran and Israel covered in separate lectures)

#4 What is the future of India west Asia relations?

1. **#5 Challenges in west Asia:** (a) Pol Instability—Internal security situation in Syria, Iraq & Yemen (operation Rahat), maltreatment of migrants; Proxy wars, Involvement of extra regional players like USA & Russia; GCC Iran Rivalry, Saudi Iran Rivalry, Shia Sunni conflict, fear of rise of religious radicalism; (b) Terrorism—Rise of ISIS; (c) India close relation with Israel; (d) Pakistan & IOC, Kashmir; (e) China factor
2. **Opportunity :** good ties with UAE, Saudi, Israel; USA treating India as ally in West Asia; West Asian countries diversifying economy; countries looking for investment; increasing defense tie ups, military exercises, access to military bases, improved relations with Israel (Abraham accord)



Act East Asia policy | Concept Class | IR Series Class #20

#1 How did Act East Asia policy evolve?

1. Evolved in two phases:
2. Phase I (Look East) → end of Cold war; Historical relations rejuvenation; Chinese Assertion forced to look to India; Observer Status in ASEAN; Admitted to EAS, FTA, CECA; India ASEAN Business Council; 1998 ARF criticized India Nuclear Blast;
3. Phase 2 (Act East) → deployment of Indian Navy in SCS since 2001; 2016-Field training exercise - Force 18; 2018 → India Singapore signed partnership & naval exercise; Provide weapons to Vietnam & Brahmos negotiation; Train Vietnam sailor for kilo submarine;

#2 What is Look East policy?

1. Engaging South east Asia after collapse of USSR; Opening doors for North-east; focus on maritime diplomacy; competing China;
2. LEP : 1992- 2001 → Relation was largely economic; 1996 onwards → Political and strategic;
3. ASEAN (Political) 1996 → India dialogue partner, 2002 Summit level partner, 2012-strategic partner; Eco Integration → 2010-signed FTA with ASEAN, active participant in EAS, ARF etc.
4. Strategic: 2001 → Indo-ASEAN treaty of peace and Amity; (a) Bilaterally → India and Singapore signed naval co-operation agreement, Regular naval exercises; (b) Multilateral → ASEAN, Observer - Dialogue - summit level partner; (c) Sub-regional → BIMSTEC, Mekong Ganga, BCIM, SAFTA, EAS, ASEAN;
5. Connectivity → Trans Asian highways from Singapore to Istanbul passing through India; Trans Asian railway from Delhi to Hanoi; 800 km trans Natural Gas pipeline b/w Myanmar, Bangladesh, India;

#3 What is the need of Act East Policy?

1. Announced in 2014, promote economic, strategic & cultural relations; Focus on ASEAN + Economy + EAC + Security; **4C** → Culture, commerce, connectivity, capacity Building;
2. Initiatives → kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport project, Trilateral Highway Project with Myanmar & Thailand; India Japan Act East Forum, construction of road & bridges, Medical supply to ASEAN countries during pandemic; Scholarship offered at IIT for PHD students of ASEAN countries; Implementing **Quick Impact Projects** in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam → provide development assistance to grass-root level communities;

#4 How is Act East Policy different from Look East Policy?

1. LEP → Focus on boosting economic cooperation; Looking for alternatives of USSR; boosting Trade & Investment; Less focus on NE, developing infra, defense cooperation;
2. AEP → (a) Focus on economy, infrastructure, strategic & security ties; to tackle geo political scenario because of china dominance in SCS, IO; (a) Geographical extension → South east to East Asia & Australia, Pacific island nations; Focusing more on historical, cultural, linguistic, and religious ties; (b) NE → gateway to South East Asia; (c) defense → Vietnam, Singapore (Changi port), Military exercise (SIMBEX), Military sales (Brahmos to Philippines); Delhi declaration (25 years of India ASEAN relations); Indo pacific strategy;

#5 What is the future of Act East Policy?

1. Concerns → Trade deficit, RCEP negotiations, China influence, Limited economic engagement; QUAD – ASEAN reluctance; Indo-Pacific – ASEAN centrality;
2. Bright prospects → Indo-Pacific; QUAD; Chinese assertion; Post COVID – resilient supply chain initiative; Economic engagement – FTA; Technology (5G); capacity building etc.



India-Bangladesh relations | Concept Class | IR Series Class #21

#1 What is the background of India Bangladesh relations?

1. Partition – East and West Pakistan; India facilitated Bangladeshi independence (1971 war) Established diplomatic relations immediately after its independence; During war— Provide shelter to 10 mn Ban refugees; 1st independent govt of Bang was formed & Administered from Theatre road in Kolkata; Post-Independence— Bangladesh passed through different regimes, so relations oscillated;
2. 1971-75 →LBA 1974, connectivity Treaty; 1975 — Mujibur Rehman killed, Awami League (pro or balanced towards India), Jamat-e-Islami helped military in martial law; Power taken by Zia-Ur-Rehman & assassinated in 1981; New political party—Bangladesh Nationalist party (radical, ISI influenced, anti-India) →wife of Zia-ur-Rehman Begum Khalida Zia; 1996, 2008 →Awami league, Ganga Water Treaty, LBA;

#2 What is the importance of India Bangladesh relations?

1. Moved from Historical & cultural to trade, connectivity, energy & defence
2. Bangladesh - India biggest trading partner in south Asia; Solved border issue peacefully - ratifying LBA in 2015; Sheikh Hasina uprooted anti India insurgency elements from its borders; Both nation support—SDG, CC conventions, Migrants Right protection; Both support grouping of SAARC & BIMSTEC; Bangladesh chairman of IORA; Security of Bay of Bengal; Keeping check on Chinese influence in Bay of Bengal; connectivity to North East;

#3 What are the irritants in India Bangladesh relations?

1. Water →54 common rivers; Teesta water— Bangladesh want fair & equitable share on lines of Ganga water treaty 1996, Bangladesh wants 50 percent of the Teesta's waters between December and May every year; Tipaimukh dam—On Barak River.;
2. Growing extremism→2016 Coffee attack, ISI growing links; Illegal Migration—Rohingya issue, Bangladesh raised concerns over NRC in Assam &CAA;
3. Border management → Drug Trafficking, narcotics; Trade –ban by India on cattle exports; rise in killing at India-Bangladesh border by BSF; early release of 25 bang fisherman in Assam custody
4. China → Biggest trading partner of Bangladesh; Recently declared zero duty on 97% imports from Bangladesh Partner of BRI; Major recipient of Chinese military inventory particularly submarines; China cheque book diplomacy; Recent Chinese threat to not Join QUAD

#4 What is the current trends in India Bangladesh relations?

1. Relations on upswing; But could change with arrival of BNP;
2. Connectivity → Recently inaugurated 3 projects Use of Bangladesh Teesta River for water supply to Tripura, use of Chattogram & Mongla port; Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT);
3. P2P - 2021—50yrs of India-Bangladesh relations, release of India-Bangladesh friendship stamps to commemorate; Mar 2021-- India conferred Gandhi Peace Prize 2020 to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman;
4. Trade and Economy → Inaugurated 3 border haats— nalikata-Saydabad, Ryngku-bagan Bari, Bholagunj-Bholagunj; Rooppur power evacuation project; Inaugurated Passenger train service Mitali express

5. Counter Chinese → \$5 billion in loans for Bangladesh in 2017; Seeking TEJAS sale; joint military exercises (Sampriti, Milan);
6. Supply of COVID vaccines; seek to resolve Rohingya crisis;





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