# PITHAPUR RAJAH'S GOVT. COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) KAKINADA

## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
**BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

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# COURSE TITLE: INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY-I

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# DETERMINANTS OF FOREIGN POLICY

Foreign policy of any nation does not operate in vacuum but instead develops, reacts and deals with the environment and factors surrounding nation. These are called determinants and they range from geography, culture, history to leadership. Some of them are static and others are dynamic and fluid. So, this result in continuity and change in Foreign policy based on interaction and influence of these determinants.

## 1. GEOGRAPHY:

**"Any country's foreign policy is determined by its geography" ---Napoleon Bonaparte**

The significance of Geography in form of Forts (Durg) of different types and their role in security and prosperity of State is very well explained right from ancient thinkers like Kautilya in Arthashastra. Kautilya even considered Durg as one of the key elements (7) of Saptanga theory.Geography of state is most permanent and stable factor of its foreign policy. Of these, location of the state, climate, natural resources, fertility and topography of land are some major factors that influence foreign policy.

Also the geographical factors encourage states to pursue larger foreign policy goals. Even though Geographical factors influence is now being challenged by technological and scientific developments. It is still dominant factor in Indian foreign policy. One of the important reasons for India to adopt Non Alignment policy is due to its geographic location as neighbour of two major powers –USSR and China. This deterred it from joining power blocs.

**Role in India's Foreign policy:**

- India's geographical size and location have played vital role in India's Foreign policy. As PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee noted that one can change one's friends but not neighbours. So, India is keen to have friendly and tension free relations with all the neighbours.
- Indian foreign policy has always noted the need to ensure the northern frontiers and waters of Indian Ocean are peaceful and free from military build-up. This explains India's then opposition to major powers like US, Britain and now in engaging with like-minded powers to balance assertive china.
- As India is largest country of South Asia and gateway to South East Asia and West Asia,India's security and vital interests ranging from remittances to Energy security etc., are closely knit with peace and stability in the larger region of Asia.
- India's Policy towards Afghanistan is also to an extent determined by geographic proximity and influence. India's LOOK EAST, CONNECT CENTRAL ASIA and Connectivity projects also explain same.

## 2.CULTURE:

**Culture** plays a big role in how people think, see, and understand the world. The **rules** and **traditions** that shape people's lives in a country are very important factors in its **foreign policy**. When a country has a **similar culture** throughout, it can be easier to have a **successful foreign policy** because everyone shares the same **values** and **traditions**.On the other hand, countries that have **different cultures** and **histories** might find it harder to have a **successful foreign policy**.

**Role in India's Foreign policy:**

- **India's** foreign policy has been influenced by its **cultural values** of **tolerance**, **non-violence**, and **universal brotherhood**. India's role as a **champion** of the **Global South** is also connected to these values.
- India's **vision** of a **global order** that is **diverse**, **multipolar**, and **inclusive** is directly influenced by the traditional idea of **Vasudaika Kutumbakam**, which means "One World, One Family".
- The value of **non-violence** has led India to support **global peace** efforts, such as **disarmament** and **UN peacekeeping**. India's support for **pluralism**, **tolerance**, and **sovereignty** has helped it become a more **important** country in the world.
- **Panchasheel** and the **Gujral Doctrine** are examples of how Indian culture has influenced its foreign policy. India's **faith** in its **civilization** has led it to be **independent** in its foreign policy.
- **Non-alignment** was not just about staying away from **blocs** but also about the **goals** and **ideals** of the **freedom struggle**.
- **Culture** can also be used as a **tool** of **foreign policy** through **soft power**. The Prime Minister's efforts to make **Yoga** an **international day** is an example of this.
- However, using **culture** as a **tool** of foreign policy should not lead to **cultural superiority** or **hatred** for other cultures, like what happened in Germany with the **Pan-German** concept.

## 3.ECONOMIC CONDITIONS:

Economic condition**s** have a big impact on a country's foreign policy. This is clear when you look at the different policies and priorities of developed**,** developing, and least developed countries**.** Developed countries have close trade relationships and can give more money for economic and military aid. They also have a big say in international organizations. The US and UK in the Bretton Woods Institutions are examples of this.

Developing countries often try to join forces and negotiate together to resist the demands of **developed** countries. The **G-77**, the **Global South**, and the demand for a **New International Order** are examples of this.

**Role in India's Foreign policy:**

- India has been aware since its independence that it needs to have good relationships with both the West and the Soviet Union. So, India chose a non-aligned policy. India also adopted a mixed economy approach, which is a combination of public and private ownership.
- India's economic ties with the UK have led to friendly relations with the Commonwealth. India's dependence on oil has made it focus on the Middle East and try to keep oil prices stable.
- As India's economy has grown, its **foreign policy** has also changed. India is now a **leading** development partner **for many countries in** Asia **and** Africa**. This is a big change from when India was an** active **seeker of** assistance**. India's** LOC **credits to** Africa**,** South Asia**, and the** Indian Ocean **are examples** of this shift.


**4.HISTORY:**

History plays a big role in how countries get along with each other, both as neighbors and on the international stage. The experiences of Colonialism and imperialism have led many newly independent countries to adopt anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist foreign policies.

However, historical and cultural factors don't work alone. They are influenced by other things like a country's national interests. The friendship and relationship between the US and Japan is an example of this. History can both consciously and unconsciously affect foreign policy. It helps us understand other countries and people, gives us a new perspective, and offers us wisdom from the past. But we can't make policy based only on historical knowledge. At the same time, it would be foolish to ignore what history can teach us.

**Role in India's Foreign policy:**

- The Impact of British rule in India and influence of national movement is clearly evident in India's Foreign policy. India's unflinching support to decolonization in Asia and Africa and strong stance against racist discrimination like Apartheid are due to its historical experiences.
- India's neighbourhood policy and revised agreements with bordering countries had a deep impact of British Foreign policy.
- Some of the border tension especially India-China etc., are British legacies. Different maps ofAksai chin with India and china, both drawn by British and multiple interpretations of McMahon line contributed to this state.
- The shadow of 1962 history still influences India-china relations and most importantly foreign policy interactions of India-Pakistan are legacies of history.
- The Realist legacy left by ancient scholars like Kautilya also have influence in India's approach towards safeguarding vital interests by coercion if necessary. India's action in Goa (1961) and Bangladesh (1971) symbolises this pragmatism flowing from ancient history.

## 5. Role of Leadership:

Of all the factors, Leadership role is most important variable influencing success or failure of various activities of nation's foreign policy. This is explained right form ancient thinker of Thucydides to present realist school. The notion that individual leaders can make difference is clearly explained in writing of Machiavelli's 'PRINCE' which is a guide to rulers.

**Constraints on Leadership Factor:**

- The role of leadership is also constrained by governmental and Social Structure. Also, its role is not uniform throughout all countries. Their role is larger in less developed countries than developed countries as individuals enjoy limited discretion in developed countries due to other structures.
- The domestic politics also constrain leadership form taking complete independent course of foreign policy. It will be in fact also driven by domestic politics, legitimacy and support.
- Acceptability of policies among public also plays huge impact on foreign policy.

**Role in Indian Foreign Policy:**

- The Indian Foreign Policy just after independence is largely influenced by leadership of Nehru. He is internationalist in outlook and regarded tallest of visionaries. So, India's Foreign policy during that time was committed to World peace, disarmament. Panchasheel is typical representation of Nehru's outlook.
- The quite contrasting is the case under influence of Indira Gandhi, who is considered to be pragmatic, realist and had sensitivity to imperatives of vital national interests. This is reflected in India's policy towards liberation of Bangladesh, non-accession to NPT, strengthening of ties with Soviet Union.
- According to C Raja Mohan, PM Modi's central contribution to foreign policy is enacting new Leading role for India in international relations. E.g. International Solar Alliance, Paris climate deal and proactive engagement in global and regional cooperation.

## 6. Domestic Environment:

The domestic political environment includes range of institutions and structures from laws, government agencies, lobbying groups to political system of the nation. The head of the government is largely influenced by the political environment he is operating in. The Shape of the foreign policy is also determined by the fact as to whether the government agencies handling it are democratically constituted or not. Also in a centralised and authoritarian system, foreign policy is often isolated from domestic environment. Similarly the nature of legislative-executive relations (Parliamentary/presidential system), nature of party system, elections and electorate are other influential factors.

**Role in Indian Foreign Policy**

- In India, initially after independence, there was a dominant influence of executive over foreign policy due to congress system, lack of clear provisions in constitution and dominant charisma of Nehru.
- This doesn't mean parliament has no say at all. Even during times of Nehru, parliament asserted itself in policy towards boundary dispute with china and Goa question.
- Also in 2003, India's approach to Iraq invasion by US is very much influenced by parliament sentiment that resulted in deploring American action.
- The domestic politics role also can be seen in foreign policy issues being mentioned in manifestos and in influencing them. Regional parties like DMK, AIADMK (Tamil Nadu) and National Conference for instance have influenced country's policy towards SriLanka and Pakistan.
- Public opinion through media, business groups gained prominence as determinants.The role of media, public opinion influence can be clearly seen in cases of India's response to Kandahar hijack (1999) and decision not to accede to US request to join post war Iraq.
- The effect of domestic politics was also seen in Civil Nuclear deal of 2008. The parliamentary no confidence vote and confrontations with withdrawal of coalition partners threatened significant foreign policy outcome.

## 7.International Environment and Structure:

The nature of power structure that prevails at a particular time in international environment significantly influences foreign policy of a nation. The changes in US policy in recognising Soviet Union in 1933 was in background of rise of Hitler's Germany. The cold war era determined big way the foreign policy of most countries.

**Role in Indian Foreign Policy**

- India's adoption of Non-Alignment policy is a direct response to emerging polarisation in international environment. The rapid expansion of relations with US and West apart from Look East Policy is also reflection of the fact that India recognised breakdown of Cold war world order.
- India's initial emphasis on Nuclear disarmament and then nuclear tests in 1998 with its justification as a necessary response to fast changing international environment explain the role of international environment.
- In Contemporary times, the globalisation driven complex interdependence between nations has made international factors influence more complicated. The emergence of multipolar world order now is also influencing India to move from non-alignment to STRATEGIC AUTONOMY.

# HISTORICAL ORIGINS OF INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY

India's early foreign policy was largely shaped by the Britishers and its founding leaders, especially Jawaharlal Nehru.

**1.Pre-Independence and Indian National Congress (INC):**

Before independence, India's foreign policy was largely determined by the British government. A few of its major features were:

- **Supporting Britishers Interest**: India's foreign policy was focused on maintaining good relations with other British colonies and supporting the interests of the British Empire.

- **Limited Diplomatic Engagement:** India had limited diplomatic relations with other countries, as these were largely conducted through the British government.

**2.Nehruvian era**

- **Independence and partition:** After independence, India was partitioned into two countries: **India and Pakistan.** This led to a mass migration of Hindus and Muslims across the border and resulted in communal violence and tensions between the two countries.

- **The Panchsheel (Five Principles):** It was a set of principles for guiding relations between nations, particularly in the context of decolonization and the Cold War. The principles were:

    o Mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

    o Mutual non-aggression.

    o Mutual non-interference in domestic affairs.

    o Equality and mutual benefit.

    o Peaceful coexistence.

- **United Nations Membership:** India became a founding member of the United Nations in 1945 and played a key role in the organization, particularly in the areas of decolonization and disarmament.

- **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM):** Nehru was also a key figure in establishing the NAM, which sought to promote cooperation and friendship among countries that were not aligned with any major power bloc.

- **The Sino-Indian War**: In 1962, India and China fought a brief border war over disputed territory in the Himalayas. The conflict shifted India's focus on military modernization and the strengthening of strategic alliances.

- **India's relations with the Soviet Union**: During Nehru's time, India developed close political and economic ties with the Soviet Union, which became one of its main sources of foreign aid and military assistance.

### 3. Shastri's era

- **The Indo-Pakistan War of 1965**: This conflict arose from long-standing tensions between India and Pakistan over the disputed region of Kashmir.

  - **The Tashkent Declaration:** In the aftermath of the War of 1965, the two leaders met in Tashkent, USSR (now Tashkent, Uzbekistan) and signed the Tashkent Declaration, which called for an end to hostilities and the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

- **India-Soviet Union relations**: The Soviet Union was a key source of foreign aid and military assistance for India during this time.

- **Public Law 480 (PL 480) program**: Under the PL 480 program, the USA provided food aid to countries on a concessional basis. India received food aid from the United States under the PL 480 program in the 1960s.

### 4. Indira Gandhi's era

- **The Indo-Pakistan War of 1971**: This conflict arose from tensions between India and Pakistan over the disputed region of East Pakistan. India intervened on the side of Bengali separatists, and the war resulted in the creation of **Bangladesh**. The war had a major impact on the balance of power in South Asia and solidified India's status as a **regional power.**

- **Indo–Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation (1971-1991):** It was a treaty of friendship and cooperation between India and the Soviet Union. It was signed in the amidst of the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971.

  - The treaty reaffirmed the close political and economic ties between the two countries. It included provisions for **mutual defense and assistance** in case of an external threat to either country.

- **India's nuclear test, 1974**: India conducted nuclear tests known as "**Smiling Buddha**," which made India the sixth country in the world to develop nuclear weapons and sparked international concern about the proliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia.

- **SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation):** She also played a key role in the establishment of the SAARC in **1985**, which sought to promote cooperation among the countries of South Asia.

**5.Rajiv Gandhi's era**

Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India from 1984 to 1989.

- **Sri Lankan civil war:** In 1987, India intervened militarily in the conflict at the request of the Sri Lankan government and later facilitated the signing of the **Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord in 1989**, which brought an end to the civil war.

- **India's economic liberalization:** Rajiv Gandhi implemented economic reforms that liberalized India's economy and opened it up to greater foreign investment.

**6.During the 1990s**

During the 1990s, India's foreign policy was characterized by a focus on economic liberalization and strengthening relationships with the United States and other Western countries.

- **LPG (Liberalization Privatization and Globalization) reforms:** The main changes that resulted from the LPG reforms were increased emphasis on **economic diplomacy.** It resulted in opening up to foreign investment and trade, the government also focused on strengthening economic ties with other countries through trade agreements, investment deals, and other initiatives.

- **Gujral Doctrine**: It was a set of five principles to guide the conduct of foreign relations with India's immediate neighbors in South Asia.

- **Look East Policy:** In 1991, India launched its "Look East" policy, which aimed to strengthen economic and political ties with countries in Southeast Asia.

- **Nuclear Tests of 1998:** India conducted a series of nuclear tests, which led to international sanctions and strained relations with the United States and other countries.

- **WTO Participation:** Another important event was India's participation in the World Trade Organization (WTO), which it joined in 1995. This allowed India to liberalize its economy and increase its trade with other countries.

**7.NDA-I (1998-2004)**

The NDA-1, led by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, was in power from 1998 to 2004.

- **The Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998**: It led to international sanctions against India but also solidified India's status as a nuclear power.

- **Kargil War 1999:** India and Pakistan engaged in a military conflict in the Kargil region of Jammu and Kashmir. The conflict ended with a ceasefire and the withdrawal of Pakistani forces from Indian territory.

- **India-US Relations:** The visit of President Bill Clinton to India in 2000 marked a significant improvement in relations between the two countries.

### 8.UPA-I and II (2004-2014)

- **Indo-US 123 Agreement**: India and the USA signed a nuclear deal in 2008, which ended India's nuclear isolation and paved the way for cooperation with the US in the civil nuclear sector.

- **India-China Relations:** The increased engagement with China, including the establishment of a strategic and cooperative partnership in 2005 and the signing of a border defense cooperation agreement in 2013.

- **Land Border Agreement with Bangladesh**: The resolution of the long-standing boundary dispute with Bangladesh in 2014 involved the exchange of 162 enclaves between the two countries.

- **Look East Policy**: The Government pursued a "Look East" policy, which focused on strengthening ties with countries in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region.

- **The India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement**: In 2010, India signed a free trade agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which aimed to boost trade and investment between the two regions.

- **UN Security Council Reforms:** The government made a strong push for India to be given a permanent seat on the UN Security Council as part of its efforts to increase India's global influence.

### 9.NDA-II (2014-Present)

(NDA) government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been marked by a focus on deepening ties with countries in the Indo-Pacific region, as well as efforts to strengthen relations with traditional partners such as the United States and Russia.

- **Neighbourhood First Policy**: The government's "Neighborhood First" policy aims to strengthen relations with countries in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region.

- **Act East Policy**: It aims to enhance economic and strategic ties with countries in the Indo-Pacific region, including through increased trade and investment, cultural exchanges, and infrastructure development.

- **SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) Membership:** India and Pakistan were admitted as full members to the SCO, a regional security organization comprising China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

- **The India-US Strategic Partnership**: It has progressed in recent years and includes cooperation on various issues, including defense, counterterrorism, trade, and energy.

- **Sustainable development commitments**: India's participation in the **Paris Climate Agreement** and its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the use of renewable energy has been a significant step in India's foreign relations.

# CULTURAL HISTORY OF INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY

India's culture has a big impact on its foreign policy. India uses "soft power," like its music, dance, literature, yoga, and food, to promote itself around the world. Indian movies are popular globally. The principle of Ahimsa (non-violence) influences how India deals with other countries. During the Cold War, India played a key role in the Non-Aligned Movement, supporting peace and development without aligning with major powers.

Geopolitics is the relationship between a country's geography, resources, culture, and politics, and how these shape its international relations. Culture includes a country's beliefs, traditions, habits, and values, and it influences how it interacts with the world. Foreign policy is how a country manages its relationships with other nations and international organizations.

Today, India's foreign policy focuses on engaging with many countries while maintaining strategic autonomy. It is inspired by the ancient concept of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," which means "the world is one family." This idea was highlighted during the G20 summit with the message "One Earth, One Family, One Future." India's vision for 2047, led by Prime Minister Modi, aims to make the country a developed nation by its 100th year of independence. This vision includes national development and global leadership, with initiatives like Digital India and Atma Nirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliance).

India supports the five principles of Panchseel, which promote peaceful coexistence and equality among nations. It is committed to a world where no country dominates others and opposes military alliances. India also leads global efforts like the International Solar Alliance and champions reforms in international organizations like the UN to make them more inclusive.

India's foreign policy reflects its cultural values of friendship, peacekeeping, and hospitality. The idea of treating guests with respect, "Atithi Devo Bhava" (the guest is like God), is central to this. Ancient Indian texts like the Vedas, Upanishads, and epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata also shape India's approach, emphasizing unity, moral duty, and the importance of diplomacy. The Bhagavad Gita, for example, teaches about justice, duty, and controlling the mind, all of which influence India's approach to global relations.

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# COLONIAL HISTORY OF INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY

The colonial history of Indian foreign policy is deeply tied to the period when India was under British rule. During this time, India's foreign relations were largely controlled by Britain, and India had limited direct influence on global affairs. However, several important events and developments during this colonial period laid the groundwork for India's post-independence foreign policy.

**1. British India's Limited Role in Global Affairs:**During colonial rule, India's foreign policy was dictated by British interests. Britain used Indian resources and military forces to further its imperial goals, particularly in World War I and World War II. Indian soldiers fought in both wars, but decisions about India's involvement were made by British authorities, with little input from Indian leaders.

**2. The Versailles Peace Conference (1919):** A significant moment in the colonial history of Indian foreign policy came after World War I, during the Versailles Peace Conference in 1919. For the first time, British India was represented at an international diplomatic gathering by an Indian official, the Maharajah of Bikaner. While India was still under British control, this marked the beginning of India's recognition in international affairs.

**3.Membership in the League of Nations:**Following the Versailles Conference, British India became a member of the League of Nations in 1920. This further elevated India's status on the global stage, though it was still largely a symbolic presence under British direction. Indian leaders used this platform to voice early calls for independence and self-determination.

**4.Indian National Congress and Foreign Policy Aspirations:**Indian nationalist leaders, particularly from the Indian National Congress (INC), started to express their views on foreign policy during the colonial period. Leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru believed that independent India should adopt a non-aligned foreign policy, staying neutral between major power blocs. This idea would later become central to India's foreign policy after independence.

Nehru and other Congress leaders opposed imperialism not only in India but also globally. They supported anti-colonial movements in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and this shaped India's post-colonial foreign policy of supporting decolonization and the rights of newly independent nations.

**5.India in World War II and Diplomatic Posts:**During World War II, India was again involved in the war effort, largely due to British decisions. However, by this time, Indian political leaders were pressing for more autonomy in decision-making. British India established diplomatic

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posts in countries like the United States and China, where Indian officials began to take on more responsibility, though they still operated under British oversight.

**6.India's Role in the Founding of the United Nations**:British India was one of the original signatories of the United Nations Charter in 1945, despite still being a colony. This early involvement in the founding of the UN gave India a head start in global diplomacy. Indian officials participated in the planning and development of the United Nations, a sign of the international role India would play after independence.

**7. Transition to Independence and Foreign Policy Foundations:**As Indian independence became imminent in the 1940s, Indian leaders started to lay the foundation for the country's future foreign policy. Jawaharlal Nehru, who would become India's first Prime Minister, articulated a vision of India's foreign relations based on non-alignment, peaceful coexistence, and support for anti-colonial movements. These principles would define India's foreign policy in the decades to come.

# WHAT IS A NUCLEAR DOCTRINE AND WHAT ARE THE MAJOR ASPECTS OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR DOCTRINE?

A nuclear doctrine of any nuclear weapon country encompasses the goals and missions that guide the deployment and use of nuclear weapons by that country both during peace and war. Nuclear policy refers to a set of guidelines, principles, and strategies a country follows regarding its nuclear weapons and nuclear energy programs.

- It is required to manage the development, deployment, and use of nuclear weapons and their regulation to prevent proliferation and accidental or intentional use.

- Nuclear policy also encompasses the safe development and management of nuclear energy.

- Nuclear energy can be a source of clean and reliable energy, but it also carries risks, such as nuclear accidents and the proliferation of nuclear weapons technology.

The dominant goals of a nuclear doctrine most often include deterrence, Target destruction, assurance of allies, and a hedge against an uncertain future.

The Indian dispensation have generally considered nuclear weapons at best a necessary evil. As a result, India's nuclear doctrine is centred around deterrence rather than war-fighting capability. In consonance with this ideology, India's nuclear doctrine has left open the scope of nuclear disarmament if the global situation permits.

Historical Background

- Nuclear programme of India was initiated in the late 1940s under the guidance of **Homi J. Bhabha.**

- Nehru was against nuclear weapons so he pleaded with the superpowers for **comprehensive nuclear disarmament.** However, the nuclear arsenal kept rising.

- When Communist China conducted the nuclear tests in October 1964, the five nuclear powers (US, USSR, UK, France, and China) also the five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council had tried to impose the **Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty** (NPT) of 1968 on the rest of the world.

- The **first nuclear explosion undertaken by India in May 1974.**

- India argued that it was committed to the policy of using nuclear power only for peaceful purposes.

- India opposed the indefinite extension of the NPT in 1995 and also refused to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

- India conducted a **series of nuclear tests in May 1998,** demonstrating its capacity to use nuclear energy for military purposes.

- Pakistan soon followed, thereby increasing the vulnerability of the region to a nuclear exchange.

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- The international community was extremely critical of the nuclear tests in the subcontinent and sanctions were imposed on both India and Pakistan, which were subsequently waived.

- After the 1998 nuclear test India also enunciated a doctrine of **'No First Use' (NFU) of nuclear weapons.**

- The doctrine was **formally adopted in January, 2003,** and says that nuclear weapons will only be used in retaliation against a nuclear attack on Indian territory or on Indian forces anywhere.

- Pakistan, by contrast, has openly threatened India with the use of nuclear weapons on multiple occasions beginning from the time the two nations were not even acknowledged nuclear powers.

Major aspects of Indian Nuclear Doctrine can be summarized as follows:

| Principle | Description |
|---|---|
| No-first-use | - **India will not use nuclear weapons first in a conflict and will only use them in retaliation to a nuclear attack.** |
| Deterrence | - **India's nuclear doctrine is designed to prevent other countries from using nuclear weapons against India.** |
| Minimum credible deterrence | - **India's nuclear arsenal is intended to provide a minimum level of deterrence that is necessary to deter other countries from using nuclear weapons against it.** |
| Retaliation only | - **India's nuclear weapons are intended for retaliation only.** |
| Nuclear weapons as a last resort | - **India views nuclear weapons as a last resort, to be used only when all other means of resolving a conflict have failed.** |
| Non-use against non-nuclear weapon states | - **India has committed to not using nuclear weapons against countries that do not possess nuclear weapons.** |
| No use against civilians | - **India has pledged to not use nuclear weapons against civilian populations or against non-military targets.** |
| Commitment to disarmament | - **India is committed to the eventual global disarmament of nuclear weapons and supports international efforts to reduce and eliminate nuclear arsenals.** |

**HOW AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES INDIA'S NUCLEAR DOCTRINE EVOLVED?**

For a country like India which has always believed in a nuclear weapons' free world, the decision to weaponize was not out of political considerations or national prestige. The only touchstone that guided it was national security. Sequence of events that led to the emergence of India as a nuclear weapon state and consequent development of nuclear doctrine in India can be described as follows:

**Developing a Peaceful Nuclear Program (1947 to 1974)**

- India's nuclear program was mainly conceived by Homi Bhabha, an influential scientist who persuaded political leaders to invest resources in the nuclear sector.
- The first Indian Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, launched an ambitious nuclear program to boost the country's prestige and self-reliance in energy with primary focus on producing inexpensive electricity.
  In the years that followed, the internal debate over whether India should develop a nuclear explosive device continued on the grounds of rising security threats from China.
- Ultimately in 1974, India tested a fission device which it described as a "peaceful nuclear explosion" (PNE).

**Moving Towards Weaponization (1974 to 1998):**

- India's 1974 nuclear test was condemned by many countries as a violation of the peaceful-use agreements underlying U.S. and Canadian-supplied nuclear technology and material transfers, and was a major contributing factor to the formation of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
- After initial moratorium, negotiations over Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and indefinite extension of the Non Profilertion Treaty (NPT) reignited domestic political pressure to conduct further tests.
- Faced with the prospect of having to confront nuclear-armed China and Pakistan, both of which it had fought wars over unresolved territorial disputes, India conducted a series of nuclear tests at Pokhran, Rajasthan in 1998, and formally declared itself a state armed with nuclear weapons.
- But at the same time, India continued to support efforts for nuclear disarmament by submitting an Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free and Non-Violent World Order to the United Nations General Assembly.

**From emerging to established Nuclear Power (1998 till present)**

- India's nuclear tests were followed by a similar set of tests by Pakistan, resulting in fears in the international community of an arms race or an escalation of conflict between the two openly declared nuclear powers in South Asia.
- After the 1998 tests, the Indian government established a National Security Advisory Board, which issued a Draft Report on Indian Nuclear Doctrine in 1999 under the

chairmanship of nuclear strategist K Subrahmanyam followed by the release and operationalisa-tion of official nuclear doctrine in 2003.

- U.S.-India nuclear cooperation agreement and the subsequent endorsement of India's case by the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), enabled India to engage in international nuclear trade. In return, India has agreed to allow safeguards on a select number of its nuclear facilities that are classified as "civilian" in purpose.

**WHAT IS INDIA'S PRESENT NUCLEAR STANDING VIS-À-VIS THE GLOBAL NUCLEAR DISCOURSE?**

- India has not signed the CTBT, but maintains a unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing and supports negotiations for a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) that is "universal, non-discriminatory, and internationally verifiable."
- India has remained firmly outside of the NPT, arguing that nuclear weapons are an integral part of India's national security and will remain so pending the global elimination of all nuclear weapons.
- India has also opposed the recent enforcement of Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) which India believes is not a comprehensive instrument on disarmament as it excludes the verification of nuclear armaments.
- India has a facility-specific safeguards agreement in place with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and a waiver from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) allowing it to participate in nuclear cooperation agreements with other countries.
- India has been actively pursuing membership into the NSG and has received explicit support for its membership from many current NSG members including the United States, Russia, Switzerland and Japan (except China).
- India was recently accepted as a member of three of the four Multilateral Export Control Regimes; Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in 2016, Wassenaar Arrangement in 2017 and Australia Group in 2018.
- The Indian mission to the United Nations has also submitted several draft recommendations on "reducing nuclear danger," which include "steps to reduce the risks of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through de-alerting and de-targeting nuclear weapons.

# LOOK EAST POLICY

The "Look East" policy was designed to strengthen ties with Southeast Asian countries. Look East Policy of India was launched in 1991 by the Government of India led by the former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. The objective was to develop political, economic and security co-operation with countries in Southeast Asia. After the cold war, India wanted to act as a counterweight to China in Southeast Asia.

Historically, the global economy focused on trade and relations between northern countries, with some attention to relations between the north and the south. However, this paper discusses how south-south economic relations (between countries in the Global South) are now becoming more significant and what the new "Look East" policies mean for South Asia and the global economy.

**India's Look East Policy (LEP), launched in 1991, focuses on strengthening economic and strategic ties with Southeast Asia, driven by several key factors:**

**1.Economic Competition with China:**

China's rapid economic rise since the 1980s, due to its open-door policies, created a major challenge for India, which lagged behind because of its slower socialist policies. China gained significant economic influence in Southeast Asia, and India needed to adopt a more aggressive economic approach to compete. In 2008, China attracted $53 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), while India received just $3 billion, highlighting the need for India to tap new markets to grow and counter China's dominance.

**2.Emerging Middle Class and Economic Opportunities:**

India's large, young population (with 60% under the age of 30) offers a vast talent pool. However, this emerging middle class, influenced by globalization and Western lifestyles, has also created economic disparities. While India has millions of millionaires, the average person still earns very little. To address potential social unrest from growing materialism and inequality, India needs to create more job opportunities by accessing new markets.

**3.Containment from West and Central Asia:**

India's conflicts with Pakistan, especially over Jammu and Kashmir, and the unstable situation in the Middle East limit its economic opportunities in those regions. India's ties

with Southeast Asia offer a more stable and promising alternative for growth, even though occasional security issues persist, such as localized terrorist attacks in the Philippines and Indonesia. Unlike the Middle East, Southeast Asia's economies continue to grow, making the region attractive for Indian investment and trade.

**4.Southeast Asia's View of India:**

Southeast Asia historically viewed India through cultural and colonial ties, but economic interests now dominate. China is often the preferred partner for Southeast Asia due to its larger, cheaper workforce and abundant resources. However, India has an advantage in being a democracy, which offers stability and transparency in trade and investment, unlike China's more controlled political environment. India's use of English also makes communication easier, further improving its appeal for foreign investment.

**5.Growing Naval Competition in Southeast Asia:**China has a more powerful navy and controls key strategic bases in Southeast Asia, giving it a dominant presence. India's smaller navy, focused on countering Pakistan, faces challenges in projecting power in the region. To enhance its influence, India would need to form alliances with countries like Indonesia, Singapore, or Australia to access regional naval bases.

**6. Strategic Importance of the Look East Policy:**India's LEP emerged as a response to the end of the Cold War and the shift in global focus toward economic relations. India feared being sidelined in the global economy and saw Southeast Asia as key to its economic and strategic interests. The policy has been pursued by successive governments, including those of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh, aiming to strengthen India's ties with Southeast Asia for economic growth and regional security.

## Constraints and Challenges

1. **Geopolitical Tensions**: Regional disputes, such as those in the South China Sea and between various Southeast Asian nations, can complicate diplomatic efforts and economic collaborations.

2. **Infrastructure and Connectivity**: Despite efforts to enhance connectivity, inadequate infrastructure (e.g., transportation and communication networks) between India and its East Asian partners can hinder trade and investment.

3. **Economic Competition**: India faces competition from other major economies like China and Japan, which are also heavily invested in Southeast Asia and East Asia. This can limit India's market share and influence in the region.

4. **Cultural and Linguistic Barriers**: Differences in culture and language can pose challenges in negotiations and collaborations, affecting the smooth implementation of policies and agreements.

5. **Bureaucratic Hurdles**: Both domestic and regional bureaucratic inefficiencies can slow down progress in implementing joint projects and agreements.

6. **Security Concerns**: Issues such as terrorism, regional instability, and internal security concerns can impact India's engagement with East Asian countries.

7. **Trade Imbalances**: India often faces trade deficits with several countries in the region, which can strain economic relations and limit the benefits of trade agreements.

# Recommendations

1. **Enhance Diplomatic Engagement**: Strengthening diplomatic ties through frequent high-level visits, joint forums, and multilateral cooperation can help address geopolitical and strategic challenges.

2. **Improve Infrastructure**: Investing in better transportation and logistics infrastructure, such as improving connectivity through projects like the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, can facilitate smoother trade and economic interactions.

3. **Promote Cultural Exchange**: Initiatives to increase cultural and educational exchanges can help bridge linguistic and cultural gaps, fostering stronger mutual understanding and cooperation.

4. **Strengthen Economic Agreements**: Negotiating more balanced trade agreements and focusing on sectors where India has competitive advantages can help address trade imbalances and boost economic ties.

5. **Collaborate on Security**: Engaging in joint security initiatives and intelligence-sharing arrangements can enhance regional stability and address common security challenges.

6. **Boost Private Sector Involvement**: Encouraging private sector participation in regional projects and partnerships can drive innovation and economic growth.

7. **Focus on Regional Integration**: Supporting regional integration initiatives, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and regional trade agreements, can enhance India's role and influence in the region.

## Impact of the Look East Policy

1. **Economic Growth**: The policy has significantly increased trade and investment flows between India and East Asian countries. Indian exports to the region have grown, and there has been an increase in foreign direct investment (FDI) from these countries.

2. **Strategic Partnerships**: India has developed stronger strategic partnerships with key East Asian countries, including Japan, South Korea, and ASEAN member states. These partnerships have led to increased defense cooperation and joint strategic initiatives.

3. **Regional Influence**: The LEP has enhanced India's geopolitical influence in Southeast Asia and East Asia, allowing it to play a more active role in regional security and economic forums.

4. **Cultural and Academic Ties**: There has been a notable increase in cultural and academic exchanges between India and East Asia, contributing to better mutual understanding and cooperation.

5. **Infrastructure Projects**: Several infrastructure projects, such as those involving connectivity and regional development, have been initiated, though their full impact is still unfolding.

6. **Diversification of Trade**: The policy has helped India diversify its trade partnerships and reduce its economic dependence on traditional Western markets.

# INDIAN DEFENCE POLICY

India has the third largest armed forces in the world and is surrounded by some of the most dangerous flash points .The primary role of the armed forces of India is to save the nation from external aggression and internal disturbances. To fulfill this commitment the armed forces must have a policy guideline, which they can follow, and more importantly calibrate their requirements in terms of weapons profile .Currently the Indian Armed forces meaning the three services (Army, Navy, Air Force) and the Coast Guard are the primary organs of the state to defend or secure its territory. The BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP, SSB are Central Armed Police Forces and Assam Rifles and the SFF are the Paramilitary forces. These forces also contribute significantly towards this aim.

India is a huge country and its defense involves protecting the entire battle space: the land, sea, air, space and cyber. The Indian landmass borders six countries, namely Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh and China. The issue becomes more complex due to the varied terrain that the armed forces have to work in and the necessity to equip and train them accordingly. The western borders have the deserts, the northern include the mountains and high altitudes and the eastern borders are full of jungles and rivers. As if this is not enough India has a huge maritime border 7516 km . The defense of this is a herculean responsibility and takes large amount of resources.

## Indias notion on defence policy:

After gaining independence, India's political leaders did not fully agree with the Western idea that security was mainly about military strength. Instead, India recognized that security also included non-military aspects. The country focused on development and tried to remove internal social and economic problems that could cause insecurity. A government report confirms that India's main goal is still the rapid and well-managed development of its people. This requires a peaceful and secure environment at global, regional, national, and societal levels.

India's idea of security is broad and not just focused on defense. First, it has worked to strengthen its internal systems to protect national security. Second, India has pointed out that there are security threats that go beyond borders and can only be dealt with through cooperation with other countries. Third, its security policy is based on the idea of "security with each other" rather than "security against each other." Lastly, India has always believed in solving both internal and external security threats through political means.As a post-colonial state, India's concept of security is built on international cooperation and development. Its growth as a military power is a natural response to the worsening security situation in the region and the world.

# Does INDIA really have Defense policy?

There are two different opinions about India's defense policy. One view is that India doesn't have a clear and unified defense policy, with some even saying that there is no defense policy at all. The second view is that India not only has a well-defined defense policy, but this policy has been effective over time and is capable of meeting future challenges.

On May 10, 1995, Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao explained in the Lok Sabha that while India doesn't have an official document called "India's Defence Policy," it does follow several guidelines. These guidelines are strictly followed and help shape the country's defense policy. According to him, these guidelines are flexible and focus on key objectives, which are considered when making defense decisions.

There might be some exaggeration in both of these opinions, but what is true is that India does have a defense policy. This policy has been carefully designed, taking into account both international and domestic challenges. Having a formal document doesn't automatically mean a policy is effective, and not having one doesn't mean there's no policy or that it's bad. In India's case, the absence of a formal document called "India's defense policy" has not stopped the country from addressing threats or preparing its defenses.

**Key Features of defence policy:**

A policy represents the expression of goals and interests. Defense policy is mainly concerned with protecting the country. It is focused on defending the nation's land, sea, and air, including its borders, islands, offshore resources, and trade routes.

- "Defence of national territory over land, sea and air encompassing among others the inviolability of our land borders, island territories, offshore assets and our maritime trade routes.

- "To secure an internal environment whereby our nation-state is insured against any threats to its unity or progress on the basis of religion, language, ethnicity or socio-economic dissonance.

- "To be able to exercise a degree of influence over the nations in our immediate neighbourhood to promote harmonious relationships in tune with our national interests.

- "To be able to effectively contribute towards regional and international stability and to possess an effective out-of-the-country contingency capability to prevent destabilisation of the small nations in our immediate neighbourhood that could have adverse security implications for us."6

Drafted by Ravi.R

* Ensuring territorial integrity of the Indian mainland and its island territories.

* Ensuring maintenance of peace and stability in all territories under the Indian dominion.

* Protection of Indian offshore assets.

* Maintenance of friendly relations with neighbouring countries.

* Protection of own EEZ against poaching and oil spills.

* Protect India's space based assets.

* Provide immunity for Indian business and military from cyber poaching and cyber terrorism.

* Prevent a nuclear conflict.

## ACTORS AND INSTITUTIONS ARE INVOLVED IN THE FORMULATION DEFENSE POLICY:

### 1. Political Leadership:

Prime Minister: The highest authority in India's defense policy-making. The Prime Minister leads the country's national security and oversees key defense decisions.

Union Cabinet: Approves major defense policies, expenditures, and strategies. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by the Prime Minister, plays a crucial role in approving defense acquisitions, military operations, and security strategies.

### 2. Ministry of Defence (MoD):

Ministry of Defence (MoD): The principal government institution responsible for formulating and executing defense policies. It coordinates with the armed forces, DRDO, and defense production sectors.

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC): Chaired by the Defence Minister, the DAC decides on defense procurements and oversees modernization efforts.

Department of Defence: Handles policy matters, defense cooperation with other countries, and oversees the Armed Forces.

Department of Defence Production: Deals with indigenous defense production and procurement, driving initiatives like Make in India and Atma Nirbhar Bharat (self-reliance).

Department of Defence Research and Development (DRDO): Oversees research, development, and innovation in defense technologies. It plays a critical role in developing indigenous military equipment and systems.

### 3. Armed Forces:

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS): A relatively new position (established post-Kargil reforms), the CDS coordinates between the three services (Army, Navy, Air Force) and ensures jointness in planning and operations. The CDS also heads the Department of Military Affairs (DMA).

Individual Service Chiefs (Army, Navy, Air Force): The chiefs of the respective services are responsible for strategic and operational planning within their branches, and they have significant input into defense policy related to their respective branches.

### 4. Defence Intelligence Agencies:

Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA): Provides intelligence inputs to the armed forces and government on strategic and operational issues.

Research and Analysis Wing (RAW): India's external intelligence agency that provides intelligence inputs related to national security and defense policy.

Intelligence Bureau (IB): Handles internal intelligence and contributes to security and defense policy.

### 5. National Security Institutions:

National Security Council (NSC): A key advisory body chaired by the Prime Minister that formulates and coordinates policies on defense, internal security, and foreign affairs. The National Security Advisor (NSA) plays a crucial role in advising the Prime Minister and coordinating with intelligence agencies, armed forces, and the MoD.

National Security Advisor (NSA): Heads the NSC Secretariat and advises the government on strategic defense and security matters.

### 6. Advisory Bodies and Committees:

Parliamentary Committees on Defence: Committees in the Parliament, such as the Standing Committee on Defence, oversee defense spending, policy issues, and modernization efforts. They also hold the government accountable for defense-related matters.

Defence Planning Committee (DPC): Formed in 2018, it is an apex body responsible for formulating military strategies and defense plans. It includes the NSA, service chiefs, and senior officials from the MoD.

- **Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC)**: A committee of service chiefs that advises on joint military operations and planning.

### 9. Research and Think Tanks:

Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA): A leading think tank that provides research, analysis, and policy recommendations on defense and security matters.

National Institute for Advanced Studies (NIAS): Offers analysis and advice on defense technology, security, and strategy.

10. External Partners and Foreign Governments:

 - India works with foreign governments, defense companies, and international institutions for defense cooperation, procurement, technology transfers, and strategic partnerships. Examples include the U.S., Russia, France, and Israel, with whom India has defense cooperation agreements.

# Changing nature of defence policy:

In the past year, India's defense policy has undergone four key shifts:

1. Changes in acquisitions: India now emphasizes sourcing military equipment domestically, with foreign purchases becoming exceptions.

2.Domestic manufacturing push: The government is focusing on strengthening the domestic defense industry, supported by the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative and the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) program, promoting start-ups and small enterprises.

3. Transfer of Technology (ToT): India is linking foreign acquisitions with ToT to boost domestic defense manufacturing and research. Notable examples include the deal between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and GE Aerospace for joint production of the F414 fighter jet engine.

4. Rising defense exports: India's defense exports have surged, reaching $5 billion in 2022-23, a significant rise from previous years. The government has encouraged exports through policy changes, positive indigenisation lists, and liberalized licensing norms.

# India-U.S. Defense Cooperation

India-U.S. Defense Cooperation has grown significantly over the past two decades, transforming into a comprehensive strategic partnership. This cooperation spans multiple areas, including defense trade, joint military exercises, intelligence sharing, technology transfer, and collaboration on regional security issues.

### 1. Strategic Framework and Agreements:

Civil Nuclear Agreement (2005): This historic agreement laid the foundation for deeper strategic ties between the two nations and was a turning point in their defense relationship.

Defence Framework Agreement (2005, renewed in 2015): This agreement serves as the cornerstone of India-U.S. defense cooperation. It lays out guidelines for collaboration in military exercises, defense trade, and technology transfer.

Major Defense Partner (MDP) Status (2016): India was designated as a Major Defense Partner by the U.S., a unique status that facilitates greater defense cooperation. This allows India access to advanced military technology on par with U.S. allies.

### 2. Foundational Defense Agreements:

To deepen military cooperation, India and the U.S. signed four key foundational defense agreements:

Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA, 2016): This allows the militaries of both countries to access each other's bases for refueling, replenishment, and maintenance. It enhances interoperability and operational logistics between their armed forces.

Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA, 2020): Facilitates the sharing of geospatial intelligence, satellite data, and critical information that enhances the accuracy of weapons systems, missile systems, and other military operations.

Industrial Security Annex (ISA, 2019): Facilitates greater collaboration between defense industries and protects classified information shared by both sides.

### 3. Defense Trade and Technology Transfer:

India has become one of the top defense partners for the U.S. in terms of defense trade. Between 2008 and 2023, the value of India's defense acquisitions from the U.S. grew from near zero to over $20 billion. Key acquisitions include:

C-130J Super Hercules and C-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft.

Apache AH-64E** attack helicopters.

Chinook CH-47F heavy-lift helicopters.

P-8I Poseidon maritime surveillance aircraft.

Guardian MQ-9B SeaGuardian drones, and other advanced surveillance platforms.

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**4. Joint Military Exercises:**

Exercise Yudh Abhyas: A bilateral Army exercise focused on counterinsurgency and counterterrorism operations.

Exercise Malabar: Initially a bilateral naval exercise, Malabar has now expanded to include Japan and Australia, making it a cornerstone of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD). It enhances cooperation in maritime security, anti-submarine warfare, and naval maneuvers.

Exercise Cope India: A joint air exercise aimed at improving tactical air operations and interoperability between the two air forces.

Tiger Triumph: A joint India-U.S. tri-services (Army, Navy, Air Force) exercise designed to improve humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations.

**5.. Defense Exports and Co-Production:**

 - Under India's Atma Nirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) initiative, there is an increasing emphasis on defense co-production. U.S. defense companies such as Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and General Electric are partnering with Indian defense companies to co-produce advanced military equipment.

 The GE-HAL deal to produce fighter jet engines in India, as well as the Tata-Airbus collaboration to manufacture C-295 transport aircraft, are examples of joint ventures under defense cooperation.

# India-Russia defense cooperation

India-Russia defense cooperation has been a cornerstone of the bilateral relationship since the Cold War era. Over the decades, Russia (and previously the Soviet Union) has been India's largest defense partner, contributing to the modernization of the Indian armed forces and supplying a significant portion of India's military equipment. While India has diversified its defense partners in recent years, including stronger ties with the U.S., Russia remains a critical defense partner.

**1. Historical Context:**

  - Soviet Era Partnership: The foundation of India-Russia defense ties dates back to the 1960s when the Soviet Union emerged as India's key defense supplier. During the 1971 India-Pakistan war, the Soviet Union supported India diplomatically and militarily.

  - Post-Cold War Continuity: Despite the collapse of the Soviet Union, India-Russia defense cooperation remained strong. Russia continued to supply India with weapons, spare parts, and technology, with several agreements ensuring continued collaboration.

**2. Defense Trade and Military Equipment:**

  - Russia remains the largest supplier of military hardware to India. According to various estimates, around 60-70% of India's military equipment originates from Russia or is based on Soviet designs. Key defense systems supplied by Russia include:

    - Aircraft: MiG-29 and Su-30MKI fighter jets, IL-76 transport aircraft.

    - Naval Systems: INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier, Talwar-class frigates, Kilo-class submarines.

    - Tanks and Artillery: T-72 and T-90 main battle tanks, Smerch and Grad multi-barrel rocket launchers.

    - Missiles: The BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, jointly developed by India and Russia, is a symbol of their strategic collaboration in missile technology.

  - Joint Ventures: The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Russia's Sukhoi Corporation collaborated to produce the Su-30MKI, which has become the backbone of the Indian Air Force.

**3. Strategic Agreements:**

  - Indo-Russian Intergovernmental Commission on Military and Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC): Established in 2000, this commission oversees all defense-related collaboration between the two countries. It meets annually to discuss current projects, new defense acquisitions, and future cooperation.

  - Long-Term Military and Technical Cooperation Agreements: India and Russia have signed long-term cooperation agreements in defense, which aim at facilitating not just defense trade but also technological collaboration and military exercises.

**4. Joint Military ExerciseS:**

   - Exercise INDRA: Launched in 2003, INDRA is a series of bilateral military exercises held between the armed forces of India and Russia. It has evolved into a tri-service exercise involving the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

   - Naval Exercises: India and Russia also conduct regular naval exercises in the Indian Ocean and other regions to enhance maritime cooperation.


**5. Defense Technology Transfer and Co-Production:**

   - BrahMos Missile: The BrahMos supersonic cruise missile is one of the most successful examples of Indo-Russian defense cooperation. Jointly developed by India's DRDO and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyenia, the missile is now being exported to other countries as well.

   - Licensed Production: India manufactures a large portion of its Russian-origin platforms domestically under license. This includes Su-30MKI fighter jets, T-90 tanks, and various small arms. Russian technology has also been incorporated into India's indigenous defense production efforts.

   - Akula-Class Submarine: India leased the INS Chakra, a Russian nuclear-powered submarine, under a ten-year lease agreement. There have been talks about extending this cooperation with another lease for a nuclear submarine.


**6. Nuclear Submarine Cooperation:**

   - Russia played a key role in assisting India's nuclear submarine program. India's first indigenous nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), the INS Arihant, benefited from Russian technological assistance.

   - Russia also leased India its first nuclear-powered attack submarine (SSN), the INS Chakra, in 2012. This cooperation has significantly enhanced India's naval capabilities, particularly in terms of operating nuclear submarines.

# India's Maritime Policy: An Overview

India's maritime policy is a vital component of its broader foreign policy, especially in the context of the Indo-Pacific region. As a rising global power with significant interests in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas, India has developed a strategic maritime framework to ensure security, economic growth, and geopolitical influence. This essay outlines India's maritime policy, focusing on its strategic objectives, key initiatives, and partnerships aimed at securing the nation's maritime interests.

## Strategic Context of India's Maritime Policy:

The Indo-Pacific has emerged as a focal point in global geopolitics, with major powers competing for influence and control over sea lanes. The region spans the Indian and Pacific Oceans, encompassing significant trade routes that are essential for global commerce. For India, the Indo-Pacific represents both an opportunity and a challenge. The nation's strategic location at the intersection of vital sea lanes provides it with the potential to influence maritime activities. At the same time, the rise of China, with its assertive stance in the South China Sea and its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), poses significant challenges to India's maritime interests.

India's maritime strategy is framed by its broader foreign policy goals of ensuring security, promoting economic growth, and fostering regional cooperation. The concept of **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)**, introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015, encapsulates India's vision for the Indian Ocean region. SAGAR emphasizes the importance of maritime security, economic development, and cooperation with like-minded nations to ensure a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

# Key Elements of India's Maritime Policy:

**1. Security and Naval Modernization:**

A key objective of India's maritime policy is to ensure the security of its maritime borders and maintain stability in the Indian Ocean. The Indian Navy plays a central role in this strategy, with an emphasis on modernizing its fleet, enhancing surveillance capabilities, and expanding its operational reach. India has invested in advanced naval platforms, including aircraft carriers, submarines, and maritime patrol aircraft, to protect its maritime interests.

India has also increased its participation in multilateral naval exercises, such as the Malabar Exercise, which involves the navies of the United States, Japan, and Australia. These exercises enhance India's naval capabilities and strengthen its partnerships with other major maritime powers. Additionally, India's emphasis on countering piracy and ensuring the security of sea lanes has led to increased patrols in the Indian Ocean and cooperation with neighboring nations.

## 2. Economic Growth and the Blue Economy:

The **Blue Economy**—the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth—is a key component of India's maritime policy. The Indian government has recognized the potential of the ocean economy in sectors such as fisheries, tourism, offshore energy, and shipping. India's efforts to harness these resources align with its broader goals of achieving economic growth while ensuring environmental sustainability.

To bolster maritime trade and connectivity, India has invested in port infrastructure and regional connectivity projects. Initiatives like the **Sagar Mala Project** aim to develop India's coastal areas and enhance port-led development. By improving port infrastructure and logistics, India seeks to increase its share of global maritime trade and reduce its dependence on foreign shipping routes.

## 3. Strategic Partnerships and Regional Cooperation:

India's maritime policy is also characterized by its efforts to build strategic partnerships with other Indo-Pacific nations. India has strengthened its maritime ties with countries such as the United States, Japan, Australia, and ASEAN members. These partnerships are aimed at countering the growing influence of China in the region and ensuring a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)—a strategic alliance between India, the United States, Japan, and Australia—plays a pivotal role in India's Indo-Pacific strategy. The Quad focuses on ensuring freedom of navigation, maritime security, and regional stability. India's involvement in the Quad reflects its commitment to collaborating with like-minded democracies to address common security challenges in the maritime domain.

Additionally, India's Act East Policy has deepened its engagement with Southeast Asian nations. India has signed several defense and security agreements with ASEAN countries, focusing on maritime security and disaster response. These agreements aim to enhance India's role as a net security provider in the Indo-Pacific and strengthen its regional influence.

## 4. Countering China's Influence:

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its assertive actions in the South China Sea pose significant challenges to India's maritime interests. India has expressed concerns over China's efforts to establish a strategic presence in the Indian Ocean through its investments in port infrastructure in countries like Sri Lanka, Pakistan (Gwadar), and the Maldives.

In response, India has sought to develop alternative connectivity projects and strengthen its maritime partnerships. The **Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)**, developed in collaboration with Japan, is one such initiative aimed at providing a counterbalance to China's BRI. The AAGC focuses on infrastructure development and trade connectivity between Asia and Africa, emphasizing transparency and sustainability.

Furthermore, India has taken a firm stance on issues such as freedom of navigation and adherence to international maritime laws. India supports the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** and has called for peaceful resolution of disputes in the South China Sea. By aligning itself with international legal frameworks, India seeks to uphold the rule of law in maritime governance and counter China's unilateral actions.

## Challenges and Opportunities:

India's maritime policy faces several challenges, including the rising influence of China, regional disputes, and the need for greater naval capacity. The South China Sea dispute, in particular, remains a point of concern for India, given the strategic importance of the region for global trade. China's aggressive actions, such as island-building and military expansion in the South China Sea, have raised tensions and threatened regional stability.

At the same time, India's maritime policy presents numerous opportunities. The Blue Economy offers immense potential for sustainable growth, and India's strategic location provides it with significant leverage in shaping regional maritime dynamics. By investing in naval modernization, enhancing port infrastructure, and fostering regional partnerships, India can solidify its position as a major maritime power in the Indo-Pacific.
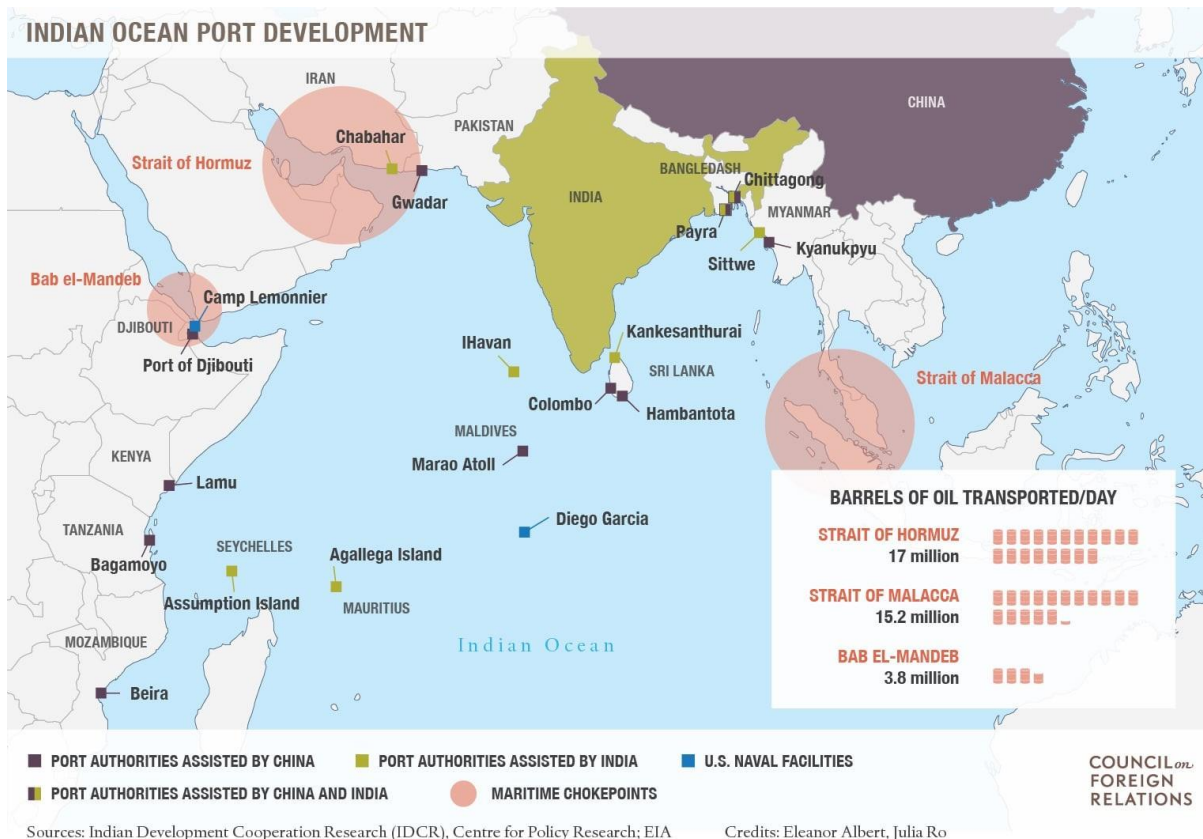
## Conclusion:

India's maritime policy is an integral part of its broader foreign policy, focused on securing its maritime borders, promoting economic growth, and enhancing its strategic influence in the Indo-Pacific. Through initiatives like SAGAR and its engagement in multilateral forums like the Quad, India is positioning itself as a key player in regional maritime security. The challenges posed by China's growing influence are significant, but India's proactive approach to strengthening its naval capabilities and forging strategic partnerships offers a path toward safeguarding its maritime interests and contributing to the stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

# Indian Ocean Region

The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) holds immense strategic importance due to its vast expanse of waterways, which serve as critical arteries for global trade and commerce. However, this region is also plagued by a myriad of security challenges, ranging from piracy and maritime terrorism to territorial disputes and illegal fishing activities. In this blog, we will delve into the key challenges facing maritime security in the IOR and explore the strategies employed to address them.

**Significance of IOR**

- **Trade and Commerce:** The IOR is a major maritime trade route, accounting for a significant portion of global trade. It connects the economies of Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Oceania, facilitating the movement of goods and energy resources.

- **Natural Resources:** The region is rich in natural resources, including oil, natural gas, fisheries, and minerals, which are vital for the economies of many countries bordering the Indian Ocean.

- **Energy Security:** The IOR is a critical source of energy, with major oil and natural gas producers located along its shores. It is also a key transit route for energy supplies to major consuming countries.

- **Geopolitical Importance:** The region is strategically located, providing access to major maritime chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz, the Bab el Mandeb, and the Strait of Malacca, which are crucial for global energy and trade flows.

- **Security Challenges:** The IOR faces various security challenges, including piracy, maritime terrorism, illegal fishing, and trafficking. Addressing these challenges is essential for ensuring the stability and security of the region.

- **Environmental Concerns:** The Indian Ocean is home to diverse marine ecosystems that are increasingly threatened by pollution, overfishing, and climate change. Protecting these ecosystems is essential for sustainable development in the region.

- **Cultural and Historical Significance:** The IOR has been a crossroads of civilizations for centuries, resulting in a rich cultural heritage that continues to influence the region's art, architecture, literature, and cuisine.

- **Maritime Connectivity:** The IOR is vital for maritime connectivity, linking major ports and cities across Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Enhancing maritime connectivity can boost trade, tourism, and economic development in the region.

**INDIAN OCEAN PORT DEVELOPMENT**

BARRELS OF OIL TRANSPORTED/DAY

STRAIT OF HORMUZ
17 million

STRAIT OF MALACCA
15.2 million

BAB EL-MANDEB
3.8 million

PORT AUTHORITIES ASSISTED BY CHINA
PORT AUTHORITIES ASSISTED BY INDIA
U.S. NAVAL FACILITIES
PORT AUTHORITIES ASSISTED BY CHINA AND INDIA
MARITIME CHOKEPOINTS

COUNCIL on FOREIGN RELATIONS

Sources: Indian Development Cooperation Research (IDCR), Centre for Policy Research; EIA          Credits: Eleanor Albert, Julia Ro

Overall, the Indian Ocean Region plays a critical role in global trade, energy security, and geopolitical stability, making it a region of immense significance with diverse opportunities and challenges.

**Challenges**

**Piracy:**

One of the most pressing challenges in the IOR is piracy, particularly off the coast of Somalia. Piracy not only threatens the safety of seafarers but also disrupts maritime trade routes, leading to increased shipping costs and delays.The IOR has been a hotspot for piracy, particularly in the Gulf of Aden.The cost of piracy to the global economy was estimated to be between $7 billion and $12 billion in 2010.

**Maritime Terrorism**:

The IOR is vulnerable to maritime terrorism, as evidenced by the 2008 Mumbai attacks carried out by terrorists who arrived by sea. Maritime terrorist attacks can have far-reaching consequences, including economic disruption and loss of life. The IOR has been a target for terrorist attacks, including the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which killed 166 people.

Terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS have exploited the maritime domain for smuggling weapons, drugs, and personnel.

**Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing:**

IUU fishing is a major issue in the IOR, leading to overfishing, depletion of fish stocks, and economic losses for coastal communities. It also contributes to maritime insecurity by facilitating other illicit activities.

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The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that IUU fishing accounts for up to 26 million tons of fish caught annually, worth $10-23 billion.

IUU fishing contributes to overfishing and depletion of fish stocks, threatening food security and livelihoods in coastal communities.

**Territorial Disputes:**

The IOR is home to several territorial disputes, such as the disputes in the South China Sea and the India-Pakistan maritime boundary. These disputes have the potential to escalate into conflicts, further complicating the security situation in the region. The South China Sea dispute involves several countries in the IOR and has led to tensions and military buildup in the region.

The dispute between India and Pakistan over the Sir Creek area in the Arabian Sea is another example of a maritime boundary dispute in the IOR.

**Trafficking:**

The IOR is a major route for trafficking in drugs, arms, and people. Trafficking networks exploit the vastness of the ocean and the porosity of maritime borders, posing a challenge to maritime security forces.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that the trafficking of drugs, arms, and people generates up to $90 billion annually.

Trafficking networks exploit the vastness of the ocean and the porosity of maritime borders, posing a challenge to maritime security forces.

**Environmental Threats:**

The IOR is vulnerable to environmental threats such as oil spills, which can have devastating effects on marine ecosystems and coastal communities. Climate change also poses risks, including sea level rise and extreme weather events.Environmental

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**Sovereignty Concerns:**

The increasing presence of external powers in the IOR, including China, raises concerns about sovereignty and security for countries in the region. This has led to efforts to strengthen regional cooperation and build maritime capabilities.

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) includes maritime infrastructure projects in the IOR, leading to strategic competition and concerns among regional countries.

# Terrorism

## MEANING:

Terrorism is a complex and controversial term that refers to the deliberate use of violence, intimidation, or fear to achieve specific political, religious, or ideological goals. Unlike traditional warfare, terrorism often targets civilians and non-combatants, with the aim of generating fear, gaining attention, or destabilizing governments and societies. It is often carried out by individuals, groups, or sometimes state actors to achieve a desired political or social outcome when they feel that conventional methods, like diplomacy or negotiations, are ineffective.

Key Characteristics of Terrorism:

1. Use of Violence and Fear: Terrorism involves acts such as bombings, shootings, assassinations, hostage-taking, and cyberattacks. The violence is designed to instill fear in a wider audience beyond the immediate victims.

2. Political, Ideological, or Religious Motives: The motives behind terrorist actions are often rooted in political grievances, ideological extremism, or religious beliefs. For example, some groups seek to overthrow governments, impose religious laws, or advocate for the liberation of a region or ethnic group.

3. Targets Civilians and Non-Combatants: Unlike conventional military conflicts where combatants fight each other, terrorists often deliberately target civilians to maximize the psychological impact on a broader population.

4. Coercion and Intimidation: Terrorist acts are often designed to pressure governments or societies into changing policies, making concessions, or bringing attention to a cause. For instance, hijackings or bombings might be used to force the release of political prisoners or to protest government actions.

5. Symbolic Acts: Many terrorist attacks are symbolic, targeting places of cultural, political, or economic importance. These attacks aim to send a powerful message or challenge the authority of the state. For example, the 9/11 attacks in the U.S. targeted symbols of American power: the World Trade Center (economic), the Pentagon (military), and potentially the Capitol (political).

**Types of Terrorism:**

- Political Terrorism: Motivated by political objectives, such as revolution or rebellion. Groups like the Irish Republican Army (IRA) sought political changes through violent means.

- Religious Terrorism: Motivated by religious beliefs, where groups or individuals believe they are carrying out divine orders. Examples include terrorist activities by groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS.

- State-Sponsored Terrorism: When governments provide support, resources, or funding to terrorist groups to destabilize other nations. Countries may use terrorist proxies as tools of foreign policy.

- Cyberterrorism: In the digital age, terrorism has extended to cyberattacks that can cripple infrastructure, disrupt communications, or cause panic through hacking or misinformation.

## Defining Terrorism:

One of the challenges in addressing terrorism is its complex and contested definition. What one group or state may label as terrorism, another may view as a legitimate struggle for liberation or self-determination. This debate over definition complicates global responses and international law enforcement efforts.

***Paul Wilkinson (Terrorism Expert)**: Wilkinson defines terrorism as "the use of violence for political ends." His definition is straightforward, emphasizing the intersection of violence and political objectives.

***Bruce Hoffman (Terrorism Expert)**: Hoffman describes terrorism as "the deliberate use of violence, or the threat of violence, to achieve political goals." He highlights the intentionality behind terrorist acts.

***United Nations**: The UN General Assembly defines terrorism as "criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons, or particular persons for political purposes." This definition highlights the intention behind terrorist acts and their political motives.

***U.S. Department of State**: The U.S. Department of State defines terrorism as "premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets, usually intended to influence an audience." This definition emphasizes the role of political motives and the targeting of civilians.

# Origin of Terrorism:

The roots of terrorism can be traced back to ancient times when groups used violence as a means of achieving political ends. The Jewish Zealots, for example, employed guerrilla tactics against Roman rule, while the Assassins, a sect of Ismaili Muslims during the 11th to 13th centuries, carried out targeted killings to further their political objectives. The term "terrorism" itself emerged during the French Revolution, particularly during the "Reign of Terror" (1789-1799), when the revolutionary government executed perceived enemies to consolidate power and instill fear in the populace. This period marked a significant shift in the understanding of violence as a tool for political control.

## Modern Development

The late 19th century witnessed the rise of anarchist movements that adopted terrorism as a strategy to challenge state authority. High-profile assassinations, such as that of Russian Tsar Alexander II, exemplified how violence was used to promote revolutionary ideals. Similarly, nationalist movements in the early 20th century, such as the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and various anti-colonial movements, employed terrorist tactics to combat colonial powers and assert their identities. These acts of violence were often framed as necessary for liberation, reflecting a shift in the public perception of terrorism as a legitimate form of resistance.

## Ideological Influences

The ideological landscape of terrorism began to shift dramatically during the Cold War, when various groups adopted terrorism as a strategy to oppose perceived imperialist forces. The global divide between the United States and the Soviet Union provided a backdrop for many groups to receive support based on their ideological alignment. However, in recent decades, religious extremism has emerged as a significant driver of terrorism, with groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS using radical interpretations of Islam to justify their violent actions. The rise of the internet and globalization has facilitated the spread of these extremist ideologies, enabling groups to recruit members and coordinate attacks across borders

# Kashmir Issue

The Kashmir issue is a historical conflict primarily between India and Pakistan, rooted in the region's accession to India in 1947 and the subsequent events that shaped its political and geopolitical significance.

### Accession to India (1947):

At the time of partition in 1947, the princely states were given the option to accede either to India or Pakistan. Maharaja Hari Singh, the ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, initially desired to remain independent but faced internal revolts and external pressure from Pakistani-supported forces. On October 26, 1947, in response to the invasion by tribal militias and Pakistani troops, Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession, choosing to join India. The Indian Army was then airlifted to defend Kashmir, pushing back the invaders. This marked the beginning of the Indo-Pakistani conflict over Kashmir.

### The United Nations Intervention (1948):

India took the matter to the United Nations (UN) in January 1948. The UN Security Council called for a ceasefire and proposed a plebiscite to determine Kashmir's future, conditional on the withdrawal of Pakistani forces. However, Pakistan did not comply with these terms, and the plebiscite was never held. The Line of Control (LoC), which effectively divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan, was established following the ceasefire agreement in 1949, though both countries continued to claim the entire region.

### Non-Implementation of UN Resolutions by Pakistan:

The UN resolution stipulated that Pakistan had to withdraw its forces from Kashmir to facilitate a fair plebiscite, but this condition was never fulfilled. Consequently, the proposed plebiscite did not occur, and the region remained divided. Pakistan continued to claim Kashmir as its territory, and numerous negotiations and conflicts followed, without a resolution in sight.

### Subsequent Wars and Agreements:

The Kashmir conflict led to several wars between India and Pakistan:

The 1965 War: Both countries engaged in a full-scale war over Kashmir, but it ended with a ceasefire brokered by international powers. The conflict further entrenched the division of Kashmir.

The 1971 War and Simla Agreement: The war of 1971, which resulted in the creation of Bangladesh, also affected the Kashmir issue. The Simla Agreement in 1972, signed by Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, established that both countries would resolve the Kashmir issue bilaterally. It reaffirmed the Line of Control as the de facto border.

Kargil Conflict (1999):In 1999, the Kargil War broke out when Pakistani soldiers and militants infiltrated Indian positions in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir. India launched a military operation to reclaim the territory, and after weeks of intense fighting, the conflict ended with India regaining control. The Kargil War was a significant episode that reaffirmed the deep-seated rivalry between the two nations over Kashmir.

**Internal and External Dynamics:**

The political landscape within Jammu and Kashmir has been complex, with various insurgent groups and separatist movements emerging over the decades, often supported by Pakistan. The region witnessed increasing militancy in the late 1980s, leading to a military crackdown by India. Pakistan's involvement in fueling insurgency by supporting militant groups has been a major point of contention.

**India's Stand on Kashmir:**

India considers Jammu and Kashmir an integral part of its territory. It maintains that the Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh is legally binding and that the entire region of Jammu and Kashmir belongs to India. India opposes any international mediation on the issue, arguing that it should be resolved bilaterally, as per the Simla Agreement.

**Pakistan's Stand on Kashmir:**

Pakistan asserts that Kashmir is a disputed territory and continues to call for its self-determination, emphasizing the Muslim-majority population of the region. Pakistan's political stance has been shaped by the idea that Kashmir should be part of Pakistan due to its demographic and religious composition. However, its failure to adhere to the UN resolutions, particularly regarding troop withdrawal, has been a critical factor in the ongoing impasse.

**Recent Developments:**

In recent years, significant political changes have occurred, including the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 by India, which revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. This decision sparked widespread debate, both within India and internationally. Pakistan condemned the move, escalating tensions between the two nations. The situation remains a contentious issue, with periodic clashes along the Line of Control and diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalating the conflict.

# Energy Security and India's Foreign Policy

Energy security refers to the availability of reliable and affordable energy sources for a country's growth and development. It involves securing energy supplies, diversifying energy sources, and ensuring energy sustainability.As the third-largest energy consumer globally, India's economic growth is directly linked to energy availability. With energy imports expected to rise to 90% by 2030, ensuring energy security has become a critical aspect of India's foreign policy.

**The Global Energy Landscape**

- o Traditionally, energy security was defined by the relationship between producers (mainly in the Middle East) and consumers (the West).

- o This dynamic is shifting, with increasing energy consumption in Asia, particularly in China and India.

- o Technological advancements (e.g., shale gas and methane hydrates) and the growth of renewable energy are reshaping global energy supplies and markets.

- o **Renewable Energy Growth**: Nations are increasingly investing in renewable energy (solar, wind, hydro) as part of their long-term strategies to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

- o **Energy Market Volatility**: Fluctuations in oil prices, political instability in energy-exporting regions, and geopolitical tensions have created uncertainty in energy markets.

- o **Emergence of New Technologies**: Innovations like hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and methane hydrate extraction are revolutionizing energy supply chains.

## India's Energy Security Challenges

- India faces significant challenges in securing the energy it needs to sustain its economic growth. One of the most pressing issues is the country's increasing reliance on energy imports.
- Currently, India imports approximately 80% of its oil and a substantial amount of natural gas. This dependence on external sources makes the country vulnerable to global supply disruptions, price fluctuations, and geopolitical conflicts.
- By 2030, India's import dependence is projected to rise to 90%, underscoring the urgency of addressing energy security as a matter of national interest.

- India's energy mix is heavily dominated by coal, which accounts for nearly 68% of the country's energy consumption, followed by oil (14%), and smaller contributions from natural gas, nuclear, and renewable energy.
- Despite its abundant coal reserves, India has been increasingly reliant on imported coal due to its higher quality and growing domestic demand. While the government has made strides in promoting renewable energy, with solar and wind power becoming key components of its energy strategy, these sources still account for a small portion of the overall energy portfolio.
- The challenges facing India are multifaceted. The need to diversify its energy sources is crucial to reducing its dependence on a few key regions, particularly the Middle East, which supplies over 60% of India's oil. In addition, India's energy infrastructure, including its power grid and pipeline networks, is in need of modernization to reduce transmission losses and improve efficiency.
- Environmental concerns also play a significant role, as India faces pressure to balance its energy needs with commitments to reduce carbon emissions and transition to a more sustainable energy system.

**Energy Diplomacy as a Tool of Foreign Policy**

- India's foreign policy is increasingly shaped by its need for energy security. To secure reliable energy supplies, India has pursued a range of bilateral and multilateral partnerships with key energy-producing countries.
- The United States has emerged as a critical partner in India's energy strategy, particularly through the landmark Indo-US nuclear deal, signed in 2005. This agreement enabled India to access civilian nuclear technology and fuel, helping to diversify its energy sources. In addition to nuclear energy, India and the US collaborate on clean energy initiatives and technological innovations aimed at improving energy efficiency.
- Russia also plays a significant role in India's energy security framework. The two countries have longstanding energy ties, particularly in the oil, gas, and nuclear sectors. India imports liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Russia and has invested in joint ventures for oil exploration and production. These partnerships have been mutually beneficial, with Russia seeking to expand its influence in Asia and India looking to diversify its energy supply.
- In Europe, India has cultivated energy partnerships focused on clean energy, energy efficiency, and renewable energy integration. The European Union (EU) and India have signed multiple agreements to promote the exchange of technologies, regulatory frameworks, and expertise in the field of renewable energy. These collaborations aim to support India's transition away from fossil fuels while enhancing its energy security.

- India's energy diplomacy also extends to the Persian Gulf, which remains a vital source of crude oil imports. However, this relationship is complicated by the geopolitical tensions in the region, particularly regarding Iran. India's attempts to maintain energy ties with Iran have been hindered by international sanctions, but the country has worked to balance its energy needs with its diplomatic relations, particularly with the United States.
- In its effort to diversify energy imports, India has also engaged with Africa and Latin America. These regions offer significant opportunities for oil, natural gas, and renewable energy partnerships. Indian companies, both public and private, have invested in energy projects across these regions, focusing on both conventional and renewable energy sources. However, India faces stiff competition from China, which has been more aggressive in acquiring energy assets in these regions.

**India's Domestic Energy Strategy**

- While India's international energy diplomacy is crucial, domestic reforms are equally important for enhancing energy security. The Indian government has taken steps to improve energy efficiency, modernize infrastructure, and promote the development of renewable energy. The National Solar Mission, for example, aims to make India a global leader in solar energy, with ambitious targets for solar power generation.
- One of the key challenges domestically is the inefficiency in India's energy sector, particularly in electricity transmission and distribution. Significant amounts of energy are lost due to outdated infrastructure and theft. Reforming the electricity sector, including improving grid reliability and reducing transmission losses, is critical to enhancing India's overall energy security.
- India is also investing in new technologies to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and improve energy efficiency. This includes developing clean coal technologies, expanding smart grids, and investing in renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and biomass. Nuclear energy remains a key component of India's strategy, with several new reactors planned to meet the country's growing energy demands

**What is the National Cyber Security Policy**

National Cyber Security Policy is a policy framework by Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) It aims at protecting the public and private infrastructure from cyber attacks. The policy also intends to safeguard "information, such as personal information (of web users), financial and banking information and sovereign data". Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (India) defines Cyberspace as a complex environment consisting of interactions between people, software services supported by worldwide distribution of information and communication technology.

**Need for a cybersecurity policy**

- Before 2013, India did not have a cybersecurity policy. The need for it was felt during the NSA spying issue that surfaced in 2013.

- Information empowers people and there is a need to create a distinction between information that can run freely between systems and those that need to be secured. This could be personal information, banking and financial details, security information which when passed onto the wrong hands can put the country's safety in jeopardy.

- This Policy has been drafted in consultation with all the stakeholders.

- In order to digitise the economy and promote more digital transactions, the government must be able to generate trust in people in the Information and Communications Technology systems that govern financial transactions.

- A strong integrated and coherent policy on cybersecurity is also needed to curb the menace of cyber terrorism.

**National Cyber Security Policy Mission**

- To protect information and information infrastructure in cyberspace.

- To build capabilities to prevent and respond to cyber threats.

- To reduce vulnerabilities and minimize damage from cyber incidents through a combination of institutional structures, people, processes, technology and cooperation.

**National Cyber Security Policy Objectives**

- Encouraging the adoption of IT in all sectors of the economy by creating adequate trust in IT systems by the creation of a secure cyber ecosystem.

- Creating an assurance framework for the design of security policies and for the promotion and enabling actions for compliance with global security standards and best practices through conformity assessment.

- Bolstering the regulatory framework for ensuring a secure cyberspace ecosystem.

- Enhancing and developing national and sectoral level 24 x 7 mechanisms for obtaining strategic information concerning threats to ICT infrastructure, creating scenarios for response, resolution and crisis management through effective predictive, preventive, protective, response and recovery actions.

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- Operating a 24×7 National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) to improve the protection and resilience of the country's critical infrastructure information.

- Developing suitable indigenous security technologies to address requirements in this field.

- Improving the visibility of the ICT ([Information and Communication Technology](#)) products/services' integrity by having testing and validation infrastructure.

- Creating a workforce of 500,000 professionals skilled in cybersecurity in the next 5 years.

- Providing businesses with fiscal benefits for adopting standard security practices and processes.

- Safeguarding of the privacy of citizen's data and reducing economic losses due to cybercrime or data theft.

- Enabling effective prevention, investigation and prosecution of cybercrime and enhancement of law enforcement capabilities through legislative intervention.

- Developing a culture of cybersecurity and privacy.

- Developing effective public-private partnerships and collaborative engagements by means of technical and operational cooperation.

- Promoting global cooperation by encouraging shared understanding and leveraging relationships for furthering the cause of security of cyberspace