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International Relations

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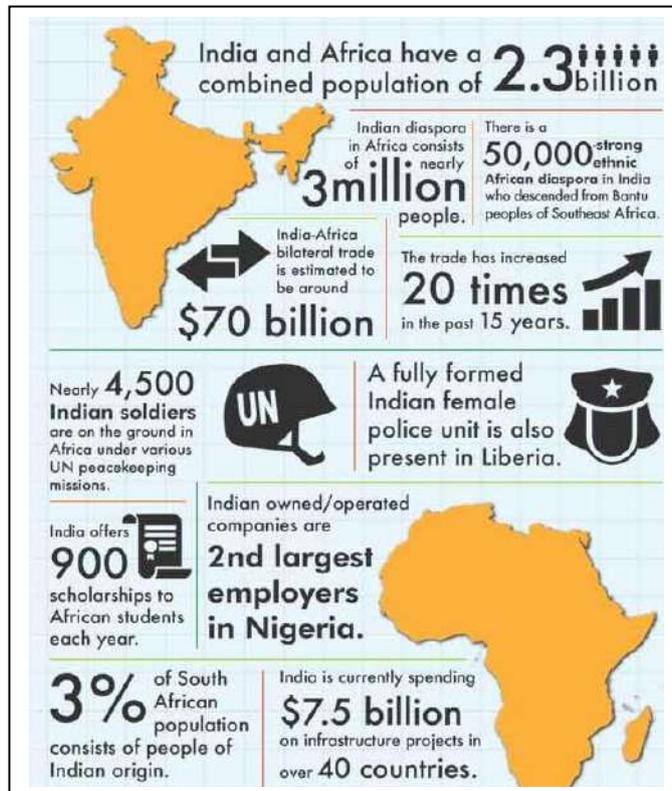
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India's Relations with Other Countries

NOTES

1. India's Africa Outreach

- India shares close, warm and friendly relations with Africa which are cemented by robust **development partnership** and a large presence of the **Indian diaspora**.



- As many African countries transitioned from colonialism to freedom, **India's democracy was the template** for them.

- The continent with its **abundant natural resources** and **improving governance structures** is being viewed as the **next global growth hub**.

- In recent years, India has reinforced its relations with Africa to **reclaim lost ground**.

- India recently announced that it would be opening **18 new embassies in Africa** between 2018 and 2021.

- Prime Minister's recent visit to Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa:**

- This is the first ever Prime Ministerial visit from India to Rwanda.
- It is also the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Uganda in over 20 years.
- PM Narendra Modi's Uganda visit marks the 25th high-level bilateral visit from India to Africa in just four years—underlining a significant build-up in India's ties with the continent.

- However, **India's lack of a consistent proactive policy towards Africa** led to the Chinese leading in terms of investment and trade.

- Chinese investments were up to \$ 3.5 trillion in 2015. In contrast, India will cross the \$ 500 billion mark in 2020.

- India's ties with the continent were seemingly strong between the 1940s and 1980s.

- The following decade saw India reorient its policies towards the West, and ceding strategic space to other countries, including China.

- India's ties with Francophone Africa remain weak.** But China's Africa strategy has no such disparity.

- Where India wins over China:**

- The **Chinese model** has often been criticised for **creating huge debts** for the nation in which it sets up projects, the **Nairobi-Mombasa rail link** being one example of this.

- **Chinese Chequebook diplomacy** has come under criticism.
- **Indian approach is seen as benign** with mix of grants and loans offered at nominal interest rates.
- The **Chinese military base in Djibouti** has raised fears that Beijing is abandoning its non-interference policy in the region.
- Large presence of the **Indian Diaspora** and **Mahatma Gandhi's link with South Africa** cements the ties.
- **Where China wins over India:**
 - China already has **diplomatic presence** in 43 of the 54 countries in Africa.
 - According to the **Stockholm Institute of Peace Research**, China's arms exports to Africa have increased 55 per cent during the period 2013-17.
 - Beijing has nearly 2,400 peacekeepers currently deployed in Africa and is training many regional peacekeepers.
- **India must play to its natural strengths** and move swiftly into the education and infrastructure fields as well as IT in Africa.
- India should boost ties with Morocco. **Morocco can be India's launchpad for engagements with Francophone Africa.**
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Indias-Africa-Outreach.pdf>

2. Geopolitical Significance of Horn of Africa to India

- The four states constituting the Horn — **Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti** — along with **Yemen** across the Red Sea have been described as one of the world's pivotal regions.
- **Africa is critical to India's security**, especially the Horn of Africa region, because of its proximity with India.
- In 2008, India organized the first **India-Africa Forum Summit** with the aim of recasting its ties with the continent.
- Ethiopia continues to be the largest recipient of India's concessional Lines of Credit in Africa.
- India is among the top three foreign investors in Ethiopia.
- Djibouti supported during **Operation Rahat** for evacuating Indians from war-torn Yemen in 2015.
- Djibouti's location at the confluence of the Red Sea with the Indian Ocean and the crossroads connecting Africa, the Middle East and Asia have made it a very attractive piece of geopolitical real estate.
- **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** acts as a common platform to work closely to deepen bilateral and regional cooperation.
- **China's geopolitical interest in the Horn** has come into focus with the deployment of naval units to combat piracy in the Gulf of Aden.
- Djibouti could become another of China's "string of pearls" of military alliances and assets ringing India, including Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.
- India does not have an embassy in Djibouti. Now it's time to re-engage the region strategically.
- **Defence diplomacy** is an important imperative for India all across the Indian Ocean littoral.

- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Geopolitical-Significance-of-Horn-of-Africa-to-India.pdf>

3. China's Water Diversion Plans

- China is planning to divert the waters of the **Yarlung Tsangpo/ Brahmaputra (YTB)** to Xinjiang province.
- China plans to build a 1,000-km-long tunnel to divert water from the Brahmaputra River in Tibet to Xinjiang region.
- Indian and Bangladesh raised concerns for the adverse impacts it would have on downstream areas.
- Analysts have described the China taking control over Brahmaputra water as "most dangerous".
- The fear of drying up of the Brahmaputra has become widespread in India, especially in Assam.
- For India, **national security implications** also follow as the Yarlung Tsangpo also flows into a disputed border region with China.
- The **Brahmaputra is an important resource for India's own water diversion plans** – the national river interlinking project.
- It is considered a powerhouse to meet **India's energy demands** in the future.
- In recent years **China has resisted to share hydrological data** on YTB during the monsoon season.
- China charges approximately \$125,000 for the data it provides to India; at the same time, it sends similar data to Bangladesh for free.
- India must galvanise the support of its neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh to prevent China from implementing large-scale diversion projects.
- India needs to be firm in negotiations with China on water rights, as it did in the case of the Doklam stand-off.
- India needs to push for **bilateral agreement on water sharing** as it has with Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/China%E2%80%99s-Water-Diversion.pdf>

4. India - China Trade Gap

- **Trade Deficit between India and China increased enormously** in recent times and is more than \$50 billion.
- India exported goods worth \$10 billion to China in 2005. India had a trade surplus with China during 2003-05.
- In 2016 Indian exports are still about \$10 billion.
- India's trade surplus has turned into a deficit of more than \$50 billion.
- During 2005-16 India emerged as a competent global supplier of polished diamonds, small cars, generic medicines, buffalo meat, etc.
- China imports these products in large quantities for domestic consumption, but not Indian products.
- **How does China reject Indian products?**

- Quality cannot be a problem as India exports these products to over a 100 countries, including the US and EU.
- **China uses a complex set of inspection, product testing and quality certification** requirements to stifle imports from India.
- Chinese experts inspect Indian factories. Cost is borne by the Indian side and clearance seldom comes.
- Only Chinese labs do the product testing, and no appeal is allowed on their decisions.
- China will not accept Indian basmati rice, while Pakistan's rice is welcome.
- Indian IT firms cannot take part if the tender size is more than \$100 million.
- Such measures ensured that India's exports to China in 2016 stayed at the 2005 level, even as India allowed almost unrestricted access to Chinese goods during 2005-17.
- **China's exports to India**
 - Of Indian imports of mobile phones, telecom equipment, and bulk drugs, 70% come from China.
 - More than 95% of Indian imports of everyday use items also come from China.
- **India must push for large scale manufacturing** in 30 product groups from electronics, engineering and chemical sectors.
- Provide 20 years direct tax holiday for investments in these sectors.
- Create a hundred design studios for new product development.
- Example from **German Mittelstand model of industry-research-academia collaboration**.
- This will help innovation-driven small firms and reduce dependence on import of daily use goods.
- **Diversify India's export basket** with emphasis on manufactured goods, services, resolution of market access issues and other non-tariff barriers.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/India-China-Trade-Gap.pdf>

5. Chabahar Port

- India and Iran's "civilizational ties" is the bedrock for the bilateral relationship.
- The first phase of Chabahar port project was inaugurated recently.
- The **New Delhi Declaration, 2003** between India and Iran focused on building transport corridors and deepening energy cooperation.
- India's ambition of reaching Afghanistan — since Pakistan had blocked land transit and access fuelled the need for developing Chabahar port.
- In 2016 **trilateral agreement between India, Iran and Afghanistan** was signed towards developing the project.
- India, Iran and Afghanistan have signed an agreement to grant preferential treatment and tariff reductions at Chabahar to Indian goods headed toward Central Asia and Afghanistan.
- India has spent about US\$ 100 million to construct a 218 km-long road from Delaram to Zaranj to link up with Chabahar Port.

- **International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** and Chabahar Port will complement each other for optimising Indian connectivity with Russia and Eurasia.
- According to some estimates, the Chabahar route plus INSTC could boost trade to a total of US\$ 170 billion from India to Eurasia.
- **Gwadar port** in Pakistan is **barely a 100 kms away** from Chabahar and is being **developed by China**. Chabahar will face stiff competition from Gwadar.
- “Chabahar” literally means a place where all four seasons of the year are like spring. For Delhi’s economic and strategic reach, it’s time to make that a reality now.
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Chabahar-Port.pdf>

6. India-South Korea Relations

- Bilateral relations between India and South Korea, officially known as the Republic of Korea, were established in 1962 and upgraded to Ambassador-level in 1973.
- During PM Modi’s visit to ROK in May 2015, the sides elevated the ties to ‘**Special Strategic Partnership**’.
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in’s recent visits to India and Singapore underscore his “**New Southern Policy**” (NSP), which gives priority to deepening bilateral relations with the ASEAN economies and India.
- The policy aim to invest greater resources in countries that previously were not on South Korea’s priority list.
- President Moon’s India visit marks the 45th anniversary of establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties.
- A joint declaration titled “**A Vision for People, Prosperity, Peace and our Future**” was issued.
 - The **bilateral vision document** also committed to building a “*peaceful, stable, secure, free, open, inclusive and rules-based region,*” incorporating President Moon slogan of “**3Ps: People, Prosperity and Peace**”.
- Prime Minister Modi and South Korea's President Moon Jae-In inaugurated **world’s largest mobile factory** in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Background:**
 - Independent India played an interesting role in the Korean Peninsula in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War.
 - India was also among the few countries that maintained diplomatic relations with the North and South during the Cold War.
 - As India opened up its economy in the early 1990s, South Korea became an important participant in India’s economic rejuvenation.
- With new issues cropping up in ties with China and America, export-driven South Korea must find new markets.
- South Korea is targeting economies with the greatest growth potential like India.
- **Other Countries looking towards South**

- **Japan** under Shinzo Abe has pursued a **“southward advance” economic strategy**.
- **Taiwan’s new “Southbound Policy”** is driven by the same economic rationale, and seeks similar strategic objectives, as Moon’s NSP.
- **China** too has a southern policy, which goes by the official name of **“One Belt, One Road”**.
- **Australia**, which is looking at Southeast Asia and India, in part to mitigate its China-related risks.
- **Commercial relations:**
 - Trade and economic relations between India and South Korea gathered momentum after the implementation of CEPA in 2010.
 - A **civil nuclear cooperation agreement** was signed in 2011.
 - **“Korea Plus”** operationalised on June 18, 2016 is a strategic initiative between the Governments of India and South Korea **“to promote, facilitate and retain Korean investments in India.”**
 - The government is planning to facilitate greater investments from South Korea and would strengthen the ‘Korea Plus’ cell in this regard.
 - Indian exports to South Korea stood at \$2.91 billion and imports from there stood at \$8.71 billion, as at the end of July 2017.
 - Korean majors like Samsung, LG, Hyundai and Kia have invested over \$5 billion in India.
- India and South Korea established an **Indian Cultural Centre (ICC)** in Seoul in April 2011.
- As trade war unfolds between US and China, Delhi and Seoul need to liberalise their own bilateral trade relations.
- Both countries need to work towards the goal of raising bilateral trade to \$50 billion by 2030.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/India-South-Korea-Relations.pdf>

7. India - Israel Relations

- The visit of Prime Minister Netanyahu is a significant landmark in India-Israel relations.
- Benjamin Netanyahu termed Israel’s relations with India as a **“marriage made in heaven but consecrated here on earth”**.
- The visit is significant especially after India voted in the UN General Assembly against recognising Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.
- This is only the second visit by an Israeli prime minister since the two countries established diplomatic ties in January 1992.
- The two countries are celebrating **25 years of friendship**.
- The iconic **Teen Murti Chowk in central New Delhi** was renamed as **Teen Murti-Haifa** after Israeli City Haifa.
- **Recent Developments:**
 - **“India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund”** was concluded in July 2017 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Israel.

- Israel will invest \$68.6 million to boost cooperation with India in areas like tourism, technology, agriculture and innovation over a period of four years.
- India and Israel are set to **jointly develop new crop varieties** and share post-harvest technologies following the success of the 10-year-old **Indo-Israeli Agriculture Project (IIAP)**.
- **Trade, technology and tourism** are the three key areas in India-Israel economic relations.
- Over the last 25 years, bilateral trade has increased from \$200 million to more than \$4 billion (excluding defence) in 2016-17.
- **India is the largest arms buyer from Israel**; trade is to the tune of approximately \$600 million.
- Last year, India signed the biggest weapons deal in Israeli defence history, which is nearly \$2 billion.
- Israel has become one of the foremost technology superpowers in areas such as **rainwater harvesting, use of oceanic water** and using that for irrigation in the most dry land.
- Need for a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** as well as a **Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)** at the “earliest” in an effort to forge greater business-to-business ties.
- **India can leverage its space technologies** to Israel for its developmental purposes where India enjoys upper hand.
- Israel will be benefited from large pool of **skilled Indian engineers and doctors** as Mr. Netanyahu’s quoted “**Indian talent and Israeli technology equals India-Israel ties for tomorrow.**”
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/India-Israel-Relations.pdf>

8. India - Seychelles Relations

- India and Seychelles share a special relationship and the **strategic convergence** between the two countries has been built on the foundation of **shared values and common aspirations**.
- India handed over the second **Dornier aircraft** to the island nation which would boost its capacity to conduct maritime surveillance.
- India had delivered the first Dornier aircraft in 2013.
- The aircraft is a “**proud testimony of India's devotion and commitment**” towards the people of Seychelles.
- In 2016, India gifted a **fast interceptor boat** to the country.
- India also announced a **credit line of \$100 million** for Seychelles to purchase defence equipment from India to build its maritime capacity.
- **Defence cooperation** has been a major component of relations between the two countries.
- Indian naval ships are regularly deployed to undertake patrol of the extensive Exclusive Economic Zone of Seychelles.
- India is keen on developing the **Assumption Island** in the Indian Ocean and to expand its footprint in the strategically-key region where China has been trying to enhance its military presence.

- This **softer approach adopted by India** is in remarkable contrast to the strong-arm tactics it has used in the past with other countries in the IOR, such as the Maldives.
- Therefore **Soft diplomacy** in the Indian Ocean Region will serve India better.
- Seychelles has been an important trading partner for India. **Tourism, fishing, petroleum exploration, IT, computer education and pharmaceuticals** have been identified as areas of economic cooperation.
- Since 2015, India and Seychelles has been collaborating in the field of **Blue economy**.
- India and Seychelles has **coastal surveillance radar project**. The project aims at better management and responding to maritime security threats.
- **India's good diplomatic ties with Seychelles** might help in securing Seychelles vote which will add to India's claim for a permanent seat at the UNSC.
- Beijing's involvement in the development of deep-sea ports in a string of littoral states in India's neighbourhood has been a cause of concern for New Delhi.
- Indo-French maritime cooperation is growing. **France's historical relationship with the Seychelles** could make **India-France-Seychelles a key maritime partnership** in the Indian Ocean region.
- The Indian government has articulated a policy for better cooperation among Indian Ocean nations as part of its **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** initiative.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/India-Seychelles-Relations.pdf>

9. India's 'Look West' Policy

- India seeks to pursue a **multi-dimensional engagement with West Asia**.
- While much focus is often given to India's 'Act East' policy, India's 'Look West' policy too is evolving rapidly.
- **West Asia is crucial for stability and economic growth** in India because around 65% of our oil and more than 80% of our gas supplies come from this region.
- **Recent Developments:**
 - **PM Modi's Palestine visit** was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister.
 - India has established independent links with estranged players in the region such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar and Iran.
 - The relations traditionally were based on energy and Indian Diaspora, but now India seeks to maintain relations to be a significant power in the world as well.
 - Oman has been a long-standing partner of India in West Asia, where Indians constitute the largest expatriate community.
 - **Naval cooperation** has already been gaining momentum with Muscat giving berthing rights to Indian naval vessels to fight piracy in the Gulf of Aden.
 - India is in the good position of being trusted by all the major factions in the Middle East; it has good relations with Iran, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Iraq, and the Gulf States.

- ASEAN has been the vehicle for India's expanding partnership with South East Asia, but there is no similar forum in the Middle East.
- Ideological, political and religious divisions in India over the Middle East have long complicated Delhi's thinking of the region.
- India's West Asia engagement must focus on **delivering on its commitments and strengthening its presence as an economic and security partner.**
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/India%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%98Look-West%E2%80%99-Policy.pdf>

10. India - UAE Relations

- India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) enjoy strong bonds of friendship based on **age-old cultural, religious and economic ties** between the two nations.
- As UAE 'Look[s] East' to find partners for its economic growth and with security concerns emanating from turmoil in West Asia and growing threat from terrorism, it finds a **natural partner** in India.
- ONGC Videsh, Indian Oil Corp. Ltd (IOC) and a unit of Bharat Petro Resources Ltd (BPCL) paid \$600 million for a 10% stake in the UAE's offshore oil and gas field Zakum.
- This is the first Indian Investment in upstream oil sector of UAE, transforming the traditional buyer-seller relationship to a long-term investor relationship.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the **BAPS Swaminarayan temple in Abu Dhabi.**
- Around 2.8 million Indians are living harmoniously in the UAE.
- The UAE occupies a key place in **India's West Asia policy.**
- In Jan 2017 the two sides signed the agreement on **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP).**
- Trade and commerce forms the backbone of the bilateral relations.
- Investment from UAE to India exceeds \$11 billion, about \$4-5 billion in the format of FDI.
- UAE has been one of India's leading sources of FDIs.
- **UAE is India's third largest trade partner after China and the United States.**
- The UAE accounts for 8 percent of India's oil imports and was fifth largest supplier of crude oil to India in 2015-16.
- Another significant pillar of India-UAE ties is reflected in their growing cooperation in **security and defense sector.**
- '**Desert Eagle II**', a ten day air combat exercise, was held in May-June 2016 between the air forces of India and UAE.
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/India-UAE-Relations.pdf>

11. India & EU Growing Partnership

- India and European Union celebrated **55 years of diplomatic relations.**
- **India and EU are natural partners**, the bond is built on shared beliefs and the strength of law outweighs the law of the strong.
- EU's partnership with India lies on the foundation of the values of "**freedom, democracy and a credible, rules-based global order**".

- India is one among 10 select countries with whom EU has strategic partnership, launched in 2004.
- The **European Investment Bank** has opened an office in New Delhi and had committed 1.5 billion euros.
- The **Lucknow and Bengaluru metro projects** and many solar ventures are supported by the Bank.
- **France**, a leading member of the EU, is an **important strategic partner**, with high technology cooperation in defence, space, and civil nuclear.
- **India - EU 14th Summit:**
 - The India-European Union 14th Summit held in New Delhi focused on closer **cooperation on counter terrorism actions**.
 - EU reiterated its commitment towards \$100 billion climate funding for developing countries.
- **Terrorism has become a common focus** and gained currency as Europe has been subjected to repeated terrorist attacks.
- Both EU and India sought that Beijing should follow the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) for resolving all maritime territorial disputes.
- **Cyber security** is another area where the EU and India are developing closer exchanges.
- Both have a **common position on China's "One Belt and One Road"**. Connectivity must be based on universally recognised international norms, good governance, rule of law, openness, transparency and equality.
- Stalled negotiations for concluding the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), or Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA).
- Working on FTA and realising concrete results in other areas can make the India-EU partnership truly strategic.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/India-EU-Growing-Partnership.pdf>

12. India - Bhutan Relations

- Diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan were established in 1968 with the appointment of a resident representative of India in Thimphu.
- The basic framework of India-Bhutan bilateral relations is the **Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in 1949** which was revised in February 2007.
- Under the **2007 India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty**, the two sides agreed to cooperate closely with each other on issues relating to their national interests.
- **2018 will be the 50th year of the establishment of diplomatic relations** between the two countries.
- The **Doklam impasse** saw a more confident and resolute relationship emerge between India and Bhutan.
- Bhutan was the first country to be visited by Prime Minister Narendra after assuming office.
- Bhutan along with India had not joined China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) summit.
- **India is Bhutan's largest trading partner.**

- **Hydropower projects** in Bhutan are an example of win-win cooperation, providing clean electricity to India and generating export revenue for Bhutan.
- There is a **Secretary-level mechanism on border management** and security related matters.
- There is a **Joint Group of Experts (JGE) on flood management** between India and Bhutan to recommend appropriate measures to both Governments.
- The Indian Military Training Team (IMTRAT), plays a critical role in training Bhutanese security personnel.
- India should further cement its ties with Bhutan by paying more attention to it so that China is not able to drive a wedge between the two.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/India-Bhutan-Relations.pdf>

13. India - Japan Relations

- Indo-Japanese bilateral cooperation is carried out under the framework of a “**special strategic and global partnership**”.
- Japan offered Rs. 88,000-crore 50-year loan at 0.1-per cent interest rate for Bullet train project.
- **Bullet train project** is a significant success for **Japan's Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure (EPQI) initiative**.
- In 2016-17, Japan gave loans worth Rs. 22,000 crore at the same super-cheap rates for seven infrastructure projects.
- Japan was the lone country to come out openly in support during the Doklam standoff.
- Economic cooperation agreement between both countries - **Asia-Africa Growth Corridor** is a counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative.
 - The idea is to create a ‘**free and open Indo-Pacific region**’ by rediscovering ancient sea-routes and creating new sea corridors by integrating the economies of South, Southeast, and East Asia with Oceania and Africa.
 - India is envisioned as a critical strategic anchor in the ‘Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy’.
- MoU was signed to setup **India Japan Act East Forum** with an aim to coordinate Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy with India's Act East Policy.
- The **nuclear deal**—Japan's first with a non-signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).
- The numbers on Japanese foreign direct investment (FDI) and **overseas development assistance (ODA)** to India have been climbing.
- Strong India—strong Japan will not only enrich two nations. It will also be a stabilising factor in Asia and the world.
- India and Japan have signed an **open sky arrangement** under which the airlines of both countries can operate an unlimited number of flights.
- Japan has cooperated with a variety of **development projects in the Northeast**, ranging from **connectivity infrastructure** such as roads and electricity, water supply and sewage, to forest resource management and biodiversity.
- Trade have been sliding from \$18 billion in 2012-13 to \$13 billion in 2016-17.

- India struggling to penetrate the Japanese market as a result of language barriers, high quality and service standards.
- Negotiations to purchase **amphibious US-2 planes** have dragged on for years.
- India and Japan will need to make much greater contributions towards Asia's stable balances and multipolarity.
- Japan and India can work together to build a common narrative in UNSC reforms and UN peacekeeping.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/India-Japan-Relations.pdf>

14. India-Myanmar Relations

- Myanmar is one of India's strategic neighbour and shares long border with north-eastern states of Nagaland and Manipur.
- India has "**historical ties and traditional bonds of friendship and cooperation**" with Myanmar.
- **Five Bs** are the base of India-Myanmar relations – **Buddhism, Business, Bollywood, Bharatnatyam and Burma teak.**
- Myanmar is at the heart of India's **Act East policy** with the India-Myanmar-Thailand Asian Trilateral Highway, the Kaladan multimodal project, and BIMSTEC.
- Pulses form the single largest item in Myanmar's limited export basket.
- The **11th-century Ananda Temple** in Myanmar was damaged during an earthquake last year and is being renovated with India's assistance.
- **Myanmar Institute of Information Technology** set up in Mandalay with the collaboration of IIIT Bangalore has been a success.
- The **Advanced Centre for Agriculture Research and Education** set up in collaboration with India's ICAR is a fine example of pooling research efforts on pulses and oilseeds.
- The Indian government is concerned about Rohingya immigrants in the country.
- The India Intelligence Agency stated that the smuggling of light arms, drugs and counterfeit currencies have been spotted along the border.
- Both sides share a **long maritime boundary and land border**, which has led to concerns around transnational issues.
- Strengthening existing cooperation in areas of security and counter-terrorism, trade and investment, infrastructure and energy, and culture.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/India-Myanmar-Relations.pdf>

15. Rohingya Crisis

- The Rohingyas are a Muslim minority group residing in the Rakhine state of Myanmar.
- They are considered "**stateless entities**", by the Myanmar government.
- This led to large scale exodus of the Rohingya population to neighbouring countries like India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

- Described by the United Nations in 2013 as one of the most persecuted minorities in the world, the Rohingya population is denied citizenship under the 1982 Myanmar nationality law.
- **Why should India help Rohingya refugees?**
 - If we abandon the Rohingya, we abandon the idea of **India as a home of refugees and hospitality.**
 - A country which offered a home to the Parsis, the Tibetans, the Afghans and the Jews cannot turn a little minority of helpless people back.
 - As the largest democracy in the world, India should extend help to Rohingyas on humanitarian grounds.
 - **Peace and stability in the Rakhine state is important for India's economic investment.**
 - **It is high time to formulate a strong refugee policy.** It will help to mitigate the Rohingya refugee problem and provide a structure to be used whenever similar problem arises.
- The continued violence in Rakhine state is affecting India's Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport project.
- Rohingyas have acquired documents like Aadhaar, PAN and Voter-ID. This raises the concern of naturalisation of illegal migrants by fraudulent means.
- In the absence of a law to deal with refugees in India, their identification and surveillance will become difficult.
- Need to bring about overall socio-economic development in the Rakhine state by undertaking both infrastructure and socio-economic projects.
- Reconciliation between the Rohingya Muslims and the Rakhine Buddhists is necessary for peace to prevail.
- **Kofi Annan-led Advisory Commission report** needs to be considered seriously by the authorities in Myanmar.
- The platforms like **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and BIMSTEC** need to be used to discuss the issue and take advantages of the experience of countries like India and Thailand who have experience in dealing with insurgency and terrorism.
- The United Nations appealed to the entire international community to keep the political differences aside and help Rohingya Muslim refugees.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Rohingya-Crisis-1.pdf>

16. India-Switzerland Relations

- India and Switzerland relations are built on common values: **strong traditions of democracy and pluralism.**
- Switzerland recognised India after independence in 1947 and established diplomatic relations thereafter.
- From 1971 to 1976, during the dispute over Bangladesh, Switzerland represented the interests of India in Pakistan and those of Pakistan in India.
- Both countries concluded **Treaty of Friendship in 1948.**
- India and Switzerland have been regularly conducting a **political dialogue since 2005.**

- In 2018, Switzerland and India celebrates the **70 years of the Indo-Swiss Bilateral Friendship Treaty of 1948**.
- Switzerland launched a programme **“70 Years of Swiss-Indian Friendship: Connecting Minds — Inspiring the Future”**.
- India is a priority country for Swiss foreign economic policy.
- India is Switzerland’s third largest trading partner in Asia, and its first in South Asia.
- Both countries signed a joint declaration on the **automatic exchange of information (AEOI)** in tax matters.
- **Swissnex India programme** connects Switzerland and India in the fields of science, education, art and innovation.
- **M.S. Swaminathan** a close collaborator of the **Swiss Development Cooperation on food security and climate change**.
- **Gotthard base tunnel**, the world’s longest railway tunnel was opened in Switzerland. India can learn from this advancement to build railway tunnels in the Himalayan region.
- M.S. Swaminathan said, **Sustainable development goals can be a common binding factor between India and Switzerland**.
- Switzerland is a global leader in innovation and technology, and the Swiss SME sector can contribute for growth of Indian SME.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/India-Switzerland-Relations-1.pdf>

17. India-Afghanistan Connectivity

- Economic development is an important factor in ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan.
- India has remained actively engaged in Afghanistan’s economic and infrastructural development since 2001 by contributing over \$2 billion in aid.
- **India-Afghanistan air corridor** was inaugurated in June 2017.
- The air corridor aims to enhance the annual volume of trade between the two countries, which currently stands at around \$700 million.
- Air Freight Corridor will provide Afghanistan greater access to markets in India.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/India-Afghanistan-Connectivity-1.pdf>

18. India-Philippines Relations

- Diplomatic relations between India and the Philippines was established in 1949.
- A **Treaty of Friendship** was signed between the Philippines and India on 11 July 1952.
- **ASEAN-India Summit** and **East Asia Summit** have provided an excellent platform for regular meetings between leaders from both countries.
- The Philippines supported India’s candidature for the non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for the term 2011-12.
- India sought the support of the Philippines to get membership of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.
- India backed the Philippines in its dispute with China over islands in South China Sea.

- Economic relations have been relatively slow and uneven to date.
- We have a **Cultural Exchange Programme** between the two countries.
- About 30 percent of the words in Tagalog language is from Sanskrit.
- India and the Philippines have a **joint working group on counter-terrorism** that meets regularly.
- Indian activities in countering extremism in the Philippines will be another feather in the hat for India's ambitions in Southeast Asia.
- A prolonged engagement with the intelligence and counterterrorism agencies of the Philippines will give India a boost to its foreign policy ventures.
- Philippines can be used as a gateway for Indian pharmaceutical companies' entry into ASEAN market.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/India-Philippines-Relations-1.pdf>

19. India – US Relations

- Trade stands at more than **\$120 billion a year** with an ambitious target of touching **\$500 billion in five years**.
- If U.S. foreign direct investment in India is more than \$20 billion, Indian companies too have invested \$15 billion in the U.S., reflecting a **sustained mutual interest**.
- There are **three-million-strong Indian diaspora in U.S.**
- **Conclusion of the India-U.S. bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement in 2008.**
- In 2016, India was designated as a **major defence partner** of the United States.
- The designation of this status is unique to India, a non-NATO ally of US.
- It will strengthen institutional effectiveness of US-India **Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)**.
- USA had recently unveiled its **New Security strategy (NSS)**. It explicitly included India in its definition of the Indo-Pacific. It recognized India as a **“leading global power”** and **“stronger strategic and defense partner”**.
- **India was included in the Strategic Trade Authorisation-1 (STA-1) category**, putting it on a par with allies in terms of technology access.
- A new representative body — **US- India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)** — is set up to further enhance business relations between the two countries.
- At the 2+2 meet, India and the United States signed the **'Communications, Compatibility, Security Agreement (COMCASA)'** agreement.

- COMCASA is one of the three foundation agreements that need to be signed by a country with the United States to share high-end encrypted communication and satellite data.

FOUNDATIONAL AGREEMENTS		
<p>Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide logistic support, refuelling & berthing facilities for each other's warships & aircraft on barter/equal-value exchange basis ➤ Will not involve stationing of US troops on Indian soil. Nor will India extend support if US goes to war with "a friendly country" ➤ Good for US forces re-balancing to Asia Pacific. Indian forces rarely operate far away from their shores but access to Djibouti & Diego Garcia could be useful 	<p>Communication Interoperability & Security Memorandum Agreement (CISMOA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Technology enabler to help transfer high-tech avionics, encrypted communication & electronic systems to India ➤ US says CISMOA will boost 'interoperability' as well as ensure secrecy of its C4ISR (command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) systems ➤ But fears that US will be able to track & snoop on Indian warships/aircraft equipped with such systems 	
<p>Basic Exchange & Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation (BECA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ US says BECA will help India with advanced satellite & topographical data for long-range navigation & missile-targeting ➤ But India, which has its own satellite imaging capabilities, unwilling for American digital sensors to be positioned on its soil 		

- India is a signatory to the **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)**, which was signed in 2016.
- The third is **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA)**, for which there are no discussions yet.
- Each of these agreements expands U.S. - India defense cooperation.
- However, there are concerns that these agreements pave the way for a military alliance and force India to **compromise its strategic autonomy**.

20. India - US Cooperation in S&T

- India and the United States are the **world's two largest democracies** with distinguished scientific traditions and experts in a wide range of scientific fields.
- **S&T cooperation** between scientific communities of two countries is a **pillar of vibrant India-US relationship**.
- American cooperation in science, technology and innovation will **help India's start-up ecosystem**.
- Collaborative engagements in information technology, nanotechnology, and gene-editing technology will have **positive impact on education, economy and trade**.
- **Advancement of vaccines** for TB, Dengue, and Chickungunya under bilateral Vaccine Development Programme.
- To **harness 175 GW clean energy by 2022**, joint research on solar thermal equipments, PV cells etc are essential.
- **Bilateral Partnerships**
 - The **Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF)** to promote bilateral collaborations in science, technology, engineering and biomedical research through interaction among government, academia and industry.
 - Joint participation in the High Intensity Superconducting Proton Accelerator, the Thirty Meter Telescope and the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Observatory.

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- Promoting innovation and entrepreneurship through **U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Fund**.
- The **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission** - Earth monitoring satellite scheduled for launching in 2021.
- Science and technology, a key driver for innovation and **job creation in both countries**, needs to take centre stage.
- India's pledge to manufacture locally and create more jobs can be redeemed by marrying the Indian skills with the American expertise in science and technology.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/India-US-Cooperation-in-ST.pdf>

Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or Affecting India's Interests

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1. BIMSTEC 2018 Summit

- The fourth BIMSTEC summit concluded in Kathmandu with signing and adoption of **Kathmandu Declaration** by all the seven members of BIMSTEC.
- BIMSTEC is a regional organization comprising of seven member states in South Asia and Southeast Asia lying in littoral and adjacent areas of Bay of Bengal.
- The grouping accounts for 22 per cent of the global population, and has a combined GDP of USD 2.8 trillion.
- Describing **terrorism as a "great threat" to international peace and security** BIMSTEC nations called for identifying and holding accountable States and non-State entities that encourage, support or finance terrorism.
- The declaration also underlined the importance of **multi-dimensional connectivity** as a key enabler to economic integration for shared prosperity.
- Members decided to speed up efforts to conclude **BIMSTEC Coastal Shipping Agreement** and **BIMSTEC Motor Vehicle Agreement** as early as possible.
- **Why is BIMSTEC important for India**
 - BIMSTEC is the natural platform for India to implement its regional connectivity, Neighbourhood First and Act East policies.
 - BIMSTEC acts like a priority organization for India to promote regional cooperation.
 - BIMSTEC is important for free trade agreement, poverty alleviation, tourism, energy and climate change, and even counterterrorism and disaster management.
 - BIMSTEC could allow India to push a constructive agenda to counter Chinese investments, and follow best practices for connectivity projects based on recognised international norms.
- **Challenges:**
 - **Lack of political will** has also limited the prospects of BIMSTEC. Countries like Thailand focus more on groups like ASEAN.
 - **Region lacks physical connectivity.** The tri-lateral highway connecting India-Myanmar-Thailand has been a non-starter.
 - Growth of **intra-regional investment** is negligible.
 - **Lack of good infrastructure** has acted as barrier to trade by raising cost and time.
 - There is a tendency in some quarters to see India's interests in BIMSTEC as part of its strategy to isolate Pakistan and position BIMSTEC as an alternative to SAARC.
- The members need to work collectively towards making BIMSTEC a stronger, more effective and result-oriented organisation for achieving a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal Region.
- **Signing FTA in goods and services**, improving **physical and digital connectivity** by building ports, economic corridors etc need to be taken.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/BIMSTEC-2018-Summit.pdf>

2. India's quest for Rules based Multi-Polar World Order

- The rules-based world order can generally be described as a **shared commitment by all countries** to conduct their activities in accordance with agreed rules such as international law, regional security arrangements and trade agreements.
- India believes that under the rules-based order globally, no one power, or a regional power, or no group of powers or no one, have the right to unilaterally change this order.
- India is associated with several forums such as ASEAN, the East Asia Summit (EAS), the BRICS Summit, the Shanghai Co-operation Organization, the G-20 Summit, the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation, and the International Solar Alliance etc.
- India has also been associated with forums such as the Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement for more than 50 years.
- The **Neighbourhood First policy** aimed to give priority to improving relations with India's neighbours.
- India part of **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** aims at facilitating economic co-operation and development among the countries located in the Indian Ocean Region.
- The **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue** or the Quad is another new multilateral forum for India in the maritime domain.
- **India's Role:**
 - India the world's largest democracy has a role to shape a new world order in this century.
 - The economic rise demands India's active participation in strategic affairs at the regional and global level.
 - China's economic and strategic expansion by way of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) makes a compelling case for India to expedite the process of its own strategic assertion.
- To work towards a multi-polar order India has to deal with three areas.
- These are – India's participation in multilateral forums, the Neighbourhood First policy and the maritime domain.
- The way forward in each of the three areas is either through participation in, or formation of, multilateral groupings.
- **India's foreign policy must serve twin goals of pursuing economic development at home and ensuring peace and stability in its neighbourhood.**
- Indian diplomacy should rise and grasp a historic opportunity. **Let us shape events rather than be shaped by them.**

3. National Asylum Policy

- **Refugee crises** may be caused by any number of reasons but the most common are war (Bangladesh), domestic conflicts (Tibet, Sri Lanka), natural disasters (famine), environmental displacement, human trafficking and climate change.
- Today, India is host to over 200,000 refugees.
- India is not a signatory to the **1951 Refugee Convention** and has no domestic asylum law.

- 1951 Refugee Convention of UNHCR and the 1967 Protocol, help define the legal obligation of states to protect refugees.
- Refugees have been accorded constitutional protection by the judiciary (National Human Rights Commission vs. State of Arunachal Pradesh, 1996).
- The Supreme Court has held that the **right to equality (Article 14) and right to life and personal liberty (Article 21)** extend to refugees.
- Our data on refugees remain significantly deficient, preventing analysis on refugee flow and their existence.
- Colonial laws still cast a long shadow on India's policies regarding refugees and asylum seekers.
- **Why India need a national asylum policy:**
 - India has done little beyond providing asylum.
 - There have been some attempts to introduce a refugee law in the country, the latest being the **Asylum Bill 2015**.
 - There is an urgent need for the government to develop a uniform framework for their management during their stay in India.
 - Thus there is a need for national asylum policy in compliant with the principles laid down in the **Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)**.
 - This will re-establish India's place as a democratic regional power committed to core humanitarian principles.
 - Having a National asylum policy predicated on universal principles of dignity, fraternity and safety, could be one such pathway to global leadership.
- **India's commitment to protection of Refugees:**
 - India has reiterated its commitment towards the protection of refugees at various international fora, including the UN General Assembly.
 - India is a signatory to the **New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants**, which was adopted in September 2016.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/National-Asylum-Policy.pdf>

4. Strategic Importance of Quadrilateral

- In a significant geostrategic move **India, the US, Japan and Australia** revitalized their quadrilateral grouping on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit in Manila.
- The 'quad' has endorsed a **free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region** that isn't monopolised by a single country.
- **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD):**
 - The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) is a strategic dialogue between the United States, Japan, Australia and India.
 - The dialogue was initiated in 2007 by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan.
- **Significance of Quad:**
 - Free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region serves the long-term interests of all countries in the region and of the world at large.
 - Upholding the rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific and respect for international law, freedom of navigation and overflight.
- By joining the quad India has taken a significant turn in its policy for the subcontinent.

- The geostrategic term “Indo-Pacific” as opposed to “Asia-Pacific” has been gaining currency.
- Strategic analysts argue that India is dragging itself into the US-China rivalry.
- Owing to India’s presence and impact in South Asia the neighbourhood first policy should not take backseat.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Strategic-Importance-of-Quadrilateral.pdf>

5. Indo-Pacific balance at Shangri-La

- The **Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD)** is an inter-governmental security forum held annually by an independent think tank, the International Institute for Strategic Studies.
- The Shangri-La Dialogue has evolved into a key strategic gathering of the Asia-Pacific region.
- Much more so than in 2017, the **Indian Ocean loomed large over 2018 Shangri-La Dialogue**.
- The keynote address by Prime Minister Narendra Modi proved an important opportunity to highlight India’s perspectives on regional security dynamics.
- The main message was his articulation of India’s vision for the Indo-Pacific region.
- It signifies the interconnectedness of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, the importance of the oceans to security and commerce.
- **Indo-Pacific Framework:**
 - Increasing use of the term Indo-Pacific recognises **India’s centrality to global influences**.
 - A “stable, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific Region” is an “important pillar” of India’s strategic partnership with the United States.
 - ASEAN lies at the **heart of the Indo-Pacific**. **ASEAN unity** is therefore essential for a **stable future for the region**.
 - United States, India, Japan, and Australia — the “Quad” group — is emphasizing “Indo-Pacific” as a new strategic space.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Indo-Pacific-balance-at-Shangri-La.pdf>

6. India at World Economic Forum – 2018

- World Economic Forum (WEF) is the world's biggest gathering of global CEOs.
- The theme of 2018 WEF is "**Shared Future In a Fractured World**".
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the plenary session of the 48th World Economic Forum in Davos.
- Prime Minister addressed **three major challenges** that mankind faces: **Climate Change, Terrorism and Protectionism**.
- China welcomed India's stand against protectionism.
- China firmly opposed to ‘America First’ policy of Donald Trump during Chinese President Xi Jinping’s Davos speech last year.
- In a first at the WEF summit, India hosted yoga training sessions showcasing Indian heritage and culture in Davos.

- For the first time in the 48-year history of the WEF, the summit was chaired entirely by women.
- Indian entrepreneur Chetna Sinha, Founder of India's first rural women bank was part of 'allwomen' co-chairs.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/India-at-World-Economic-Forum-2018.pdf>

7. India-ASEAN Relations

- India started engaging with ASEAN in 1992 through sectoral dialogue partnership.
- It also joined the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus), Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), and several other platforms commonly shared with ASEAN.
- The relationship was further elevated with the ASEAN-India Summit in 2002 and since then the Summit has been held annually.
- Both sides celebrated the 25th anniversary of their dialogue partnership recently.
- India's two-way trade with ASEAN stands at about \$76 billion.
- **ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AIFTA)** is seen as an essential step towards deeper economic integration.
- India has a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with various countries of ASEAN region.
- ASEAN occupies a central place in the security architecture of the Asia-Pacific region.
- The common areas include space technology, counterterrorism and anti-insurgency operations, trade and investment, connectivity, and maritime security.
- Improving India-ASEAN connectivity is important for Asia-Pacific connectivity.
- India needs to focus on more effective delivery of projects it is already committed to. Example India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway.
- **Transforming "corridors of connectivity" to "corridors of trade"** needs to be fast-tracked to realise their full business potential.
- Maintaining cordiality with ASEAN as an organisation and with the individual Southeast Asian countries remains crucial for India.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/India-ASEAN-Relations-2.pdf>

8. ASEAN's role in Regional Peace and Security

- Southeast Asia is a diverse and complex region where every major culture and civilisation of the world finds a place.
- The year **2017 marks the 50th year of the establishment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**.
- ASEAN is now important in the region. It has helped shape regional interactions with the great powers including China, India, Japan and the US.
- **ASEAN has declared itself as a nuclear weapon free zone.**
- The neutral role played by ASEAN in its external relations has helped ASEAN to "retain its centrality in the region".

- The adoption of the **ASEAN Charter in 2007** reinforces the sense of community.
- However there are Intra-ASEAN security issues like Rohingya crisis, migration, human trafficking, pandemics, climate change, South China Sea and piracy.
- China's territorial claims in the oil and gas-rich South China Sea, and building up of artificial islands can prove to be a threat for freedom of navigation in region.
- Cross country organised crime like drug trafficking between Myanmar, Thailand and Laos forming the Golden Triangle could not be contained by ASEAN.
- **India-ASEAN Relations**
 - ASEAN and India commemorate 25 years of their partnership, 15 years of summit-level interaction and five years of strategic partnership.
 - India's Act East Policy puts ASEAN at the centre of India's regional engagement.
 - India's Northeast acts as key to linking up with Southeast Asia.
 - **3 Cs–Culture, Connectivity and Commerce**– will shape India's ties with the ASEAN bloc.
 - ASEAN nations are also important trade partners for India. ASEAN-India trade in 2016-17 was \$70 billion.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/ASEAN%E2%80%99s-role-in-Regional-Peace-and-Security-2.pdf>

9. Wassenaar Arrangement

- The **Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies**, commonly known as the Wassenaar Arrangement is a grouping of 42 countries, of which India is the latest entrant.
- It seeks to bring security and stability, by fostering transparent practices in the sale and transfer of arms and materials and technologies that can be used to make nuclear weapons.
- The aim is also to prevent the acquisition of these items by terrorists.
- Membership in the Arrangement is seen as a **significant victory for the country's non-proliferation track record**.
- India's application was supported by Russia, USA, France and Germany.
- Wassenaar Arrangement membership along with India's success at the International Court of Justice (Re-election of Dalveer Bhandari to ICJ) elevates India's diplomatic profile.
- It is expected to build up a strong case for India's entry into NSG.
- If China decides to apply for the WA membership in the future, India will have a say in the decision – just as currently China has on India's application of NSG membership.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Wassenaar-Arrangement.pdf>

10. India's Rising Soft Power

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- According to Harvard political scientist, who coined the term, **soft power is the ability of a country to persuade others to do what it wants without resorting to force or coercion.**
- Soft power lies in a country's attractiveness and comes from three resources: its culture, its political values, and its foreign policies.
- India boasts an amazing variety and wealth of soft power resources.
- Analysts say soft power has the potential "to multiply the efforts of Indian diplomacy and in this regard should be pursued as an important objective".
- India's spiritualism, yoga, movies and television, classical and popular dance and music, its principles of non-violence, democratic institutions, plural society, and cuisine have all attracted people across the world.
- India is a country in which all major religions like Hinduism, Islam, Christianity and Sikhism - coexists which has been the strength of India's soft power.
- **International Day of Yoga** reflects yoga's immense popularity worldwide, underscoring its richness as a soft power resource.
- **Indian Diaspora** is seen as ambassadors of carriers of our soft power.
- **Buddhism** is an important bridge between not just India and South East Asia and East Asia, but also with South Asia.
- Recent successful Indo-ASEAN artists camp in Udaipur as well as Indo-ASEAN music festival in Delhi was a bridge between the youth of India and ASEAN.
- India's soft power is reflected in Buddhism, yoga, revival of Nalanda University, Indian cultural centres (Jakarta, Bali, Bangkok), and joint restoration of monuments (Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos).
- **Concerns / Challenges**
 - According to the "**Soft Power 30**" report, India did not rank even in the top 30 in terms of soft power.
 - France, for instance, draws over 70 million tourists while India attracted a mere eight million last year.
 - The much-talked about Buddhist circuit still suffer for want of travel and infrastructure.
 - '**Incredible India**' campaign has become successful after the visa-on-arrival system, but ease of travel is still an issue.
 - India is still having difficulties in changing its neighbours' behaviours by using soft power.
 - The soft power has not helped India deal with terrorism and radicalism.
 - Despite India's growing soft power many countries are not supporting India's permanent membership in UNSC.
 - It has not helped India in WTO negotiations and not fetched FTA with EU.
- We have the potential to be world leaders in not only economic terms but as a free, vibrant and dynamic nation.
- India must use its soft power to leverage and accelerate its growth.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Indias-Rising-Soft-Power.pdf>

Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests

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1. US-China Trade War

- Trade war is a situation where countries restrict each other's trade by imposing tariff or quota on imports.
- US has started imposing tariffs on as much as 25 percent on \$34 billion in Chinese imports.
- China responded with retaliatory tariffs of 25% on US goods worth an equivalent \$34 billion, including soybean, automobiles, and marine products such as lobsters.
- The imposition of tariffs by US is to punish Beijing for restricting US investment in China.
- The US also accused China of stealing American intellectual property and Chinese firms imitating US technologies.
- The U.S. trade deficit with China was \$375 billion in 2017.
- US aimed at protectionist measures by China, especially its **"Made in China 2025" programme** — an initiative to transform China into an advanced manufacturing powerhouse.
- Trump has also accused China of subsidising steel exports in a practice termed dumping on the rest of the world, which has hit jobs in the US.
- The tariff and other steps will damage the trade agreements under WTO.
- The fallout will also have a direct impact on Asian economies such as Taiwan, Malaysia, and South Korea.
- Chinese tariffs will cut off American farmers from China, which buys about 60 percent of their soybean exports.
- **Impact on India:**
 - The trade war may impact Indian economy more adversely.
 - The **biggest impact could be on the rupee** which is already battling historic lows against the US dollar.
 - The **rising price of oil threatens to widen India's current account deficit**, impacting India's macroeconomic stability.
 - China imports 100 million metric tons of soybean which serves as protein source and feeds its food processing industry, this presents a huge opportunity for India.
 - India may be able to gain some traction in textile, garments and gems and jewellery if Chinese exports to the US slow down.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/US-China-Trade-War.pdf>

2. Space Weaponization Programme

- The U.S. President Donald Trump had announced the creation of a **"space force" or a sixth branch of the American armed forces.**
- It goes back to the Cold War, an example being the **Strategic Defense Initiative** of the Reagan Administration.
- The push for the creation of a space corps is to deny the Russians and the Chinese advantages in space.

- There is exponential growth in China's space military capabilities over the last two decades.
- Space weapons have one principal function — deterrence.
- Adding another military arm would only compound the organisational challenges facing the U.S. armed services.
- Russia may probably align with China to not to allow U.S. space dominance.
- **Implications for India:**
 - **India is a party to 1967 Outer Space treaty** which bars nations from placing weapons of mass destruction in space.
 - India is officially committed to **PAROS, or the prevention of an arms race in outer space.**
 - India is yet to establish a credible space-command of its own. Shifting focus to space would require diversion of resources from other wings.
 - India may have to **increase its defence budget** to maintain deterrence in the new race.
- **Outer Space Treaty:**
 - The Outer Space Treaty forms the basis of international space law.
 - The treaty was opened for signature in the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union on 27 January 1967, and entered into force on 10 October 1967.
 - As of April 2018, 107 countries are parties to the treaty.
 - The treaty affirmed "**the common interest of all mankind in the progress of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes**".
 - It bars states party to the treaty from placing nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in Earth orbit.
 - The treaty did not specifically ban the military use of outer space.
 - Since then the military utility of space based technology has increased tremendously.
- The view of earth from outer space presents our planet as a unified, interconnected and unique kernel of life, which should not be fought over or destroyed by war.
- Thus, space in the 21st Century offers an opportunity to move towards a world of common security and disarmament rather than one of conflict and more arms races.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Space-Weaponization-Programme.pdf>

3. FTA between China and Maldives

- The announcement of a free trade agreement between the Maldives and China is another sign of **Beijing's success in its outreach in South Asia.**
- This is also Maldives's first FTA with any country.
- The FTA was rushed through Parliament without having requisite majority.
- Opposition has criticised the pact saying it undermined Maldives' sovereignty and leaves the country in debt for China.
- More than 70 per cent of Maldives foreign debt is owed to Beijing, which gives it huge leverage, undermining Maldivian sovereignty and independence.

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- Maldives does not have an FTA with India.
- The FTA agreement between Maldives and China will have a bearing on India and set the tone for its future diplomatic ties with Male.
- China's massive infrastructure projects, including the development of Hulhule Island and the "Friendship" bridge connecting it to Male.
- Maldives must be sensitive to New Delhi's concerns in keeping with its India first policy.
- India must increase its investing in Maldives the way it is investing in Afghanistan.
- **Maldives is strategically located in the Indian Ocean**, and India being a major power in the Indian Ocean region has the highest stake in the stability of Maldives.
- India must be committed to support democracy, development and stability in Maldives.
- Reference: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/FTA-between-China-and-Maldives.pdf>

Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate

NOTES

1. Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

- India voted against draft decision on chemical weapons use at OPCW meet, citing "incomplete consultations".
- The conference was called by the UK, the US and the West to have discussions on upholding the global ban against the use of chemical weapons.
- While there was unity on the goal, there are strong differences on how to achieve this goal.
- **India emphasised the importance of consensus and the need for all decisions to be taken by the members of OPCW in consultation with each other.**
- The conference was held in the backdrop of the widespread concern over reports of use of chemical weapons in Malaysia, the UK, Northern Ireland, Syria and Iraq.
- India joined Russia, China and South Africa in voting against the UK and US-backed decision that authorises OPCW to identify perpetrators of chemical weapons attack, stating that adequate concerns were not taken on board.
- India claimed that the decision violates the Chemical Weapons Convention's finely crafted balance and instead gives unchecked powers to the OPCW DG.
- **Background:**
 - During the First World War, more than 90,000 soldiers suffered painful deaths following the use of chlorine, mustard and other chemical agents.
 - Chemical weapons (CW) were also used with devastating consequences in Morocco, Yemen, China and Abyssinia (now Ethiopia).
 - The aftermath of their deployment in the 1980s Iran-Iraq War continues to be felt even today, with 30,000 Iranians still suffering from the effects of the agents used in the conflict.
 - The repeated use of chemical weapons represents a **grave threat to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the rules-based international order.**
- India is against the use of chemical weapons under any circumstances.
- Any long-lasting and effective solution to the challenges faced by the OPCW can only be found through wide ranging consultations among States Parties.
- The need of the hour is constructive engagement, dialogue, and unity among the member countries.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Organisation-for-the-Prohibition-of-Chemical-Weapons-OPCW.pdf>

2. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a **Eurasian political, economic, and military organisation.**
- The SCO's objectives are centred around cooperation between member nations on security-related concerns, military cooperation, intelligence sharing and counter-terrorism.

- SCO assumes greater importance after entry of India and Pakistan, the United Nations has said.
- **2018 SCO Summit:**
 - 18th SCO summit was held in China's Qingdao.
 - It is for the first time the Indian prime minister attended the SCO summit after India became full-fledged member of the grouping.
 - India floated the concept of **SECURE: 'S' for security for citizens, 'E' for economic development, 'C' for connectivity in the region, 'U' for unity, 'R' for respect of sovereignty and integrity, and 'E' for environment protection.**
 - In the joint Qingdao Declaration of the Council of Heads of State of SCO, India was the only member to refuse to endorse China's One Belt, One Road (OBOR) project.
 - The decision was taken as part of New Delhi's policy of not compromising on territorial issues.
- **India and SCO**
 - India has historic ties with the grouping as an observer over the past 12 years.
 - SCO will **strengthen India's relations with Central Asian republics** and provide a new opportunity to pursue the **"Connect Central Asian Policy"**.
 - The SCO would also be a new channel to **enhance bilateral ties with China and Russia.**
 - Experts say India's inclusion may even bring down Beijing's overarching influence over the SCO.
 - India is likely to get greater access to major gas and oil exploration projects in Central Asia.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Shanghai-Cooperation-Organisation-SCO.pdf>

3. WTO Buenos Aires Summit

- The **11th ministerial conference** of the World Trade Organization (WTO) ended without any substantial outcome as it lacked consensus.
- **Issue of Farm Subsidies:**
 - With the backing of more than 100 countries, India and China had jointly submitted a proposal to the WTO to eliminate the trade-distorting farm subsidies in several developed countries.
 - On an average, an Indian farmer gets an annual subsidy of \$250 whereas EU and U.S farmers get \$60,000.
 - Developed countries insist that developing countries should contain the subsidies within 10% of the value of production.
 - In 2013 Bali Ministerial meeting developing countries were promised a permanent solution to the food subsidy by 2017 meeting.
 - The G-33 coalition — which includes Indonesia, China and India — seeks a complete exemption from commitments to reduce subsidies.
- **India's Stance**
 - Developed countries wanted 21st century trade issues like e-commerce, investment facilitation, MSMEs and gender equality.

- India toughened its stand on these issues.
- It said 'e-commerce' subject was not part of the original Doha agenda.
- **India insisted that Doha round issues must be cleared first** before taking up new issues.
- India stood firm on its stand on the fundamental principles of the WTO, including multilateralism, rule-based decision-making, an independent dispute resolution, and special and differential treatment for all developing countries.
- India managed to protect all its interests without being accused of being deal breakers. This is indeed a diplomatic victory.
- India expressed its "deep disappointment" over the US' refusal to agree on the public stockholding issue.
- India has not only protected its interests but also fought for countries which are more vulnerable than India.
- India opposed the joint declaration on "**Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment**". India said WTO is not a forum to discuss gender.
- India is very much in favour of promoting gender issues, but discussions should be at the right forum at the right place.
- Any Ministerial Declaration must reaffirm the principles of the multilateralism, the completion of the Doha Development Agenda, and special and differential treatment to developing countries.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/WTO-Buenos-Aires-Summit.pdf>

4. The Decline of the WTO

- The WTO's latest ministerial conference in Buenos Aires ended with a lot of talk but no meaningful action.
- It became the third ministerial conference after Seattle and Cancun where no declaration could be adopted.
- The last 'low-hanging fruit' the WTO was able to garner for its members was the Trade Facilitation Agreement at the Bali ministerial in 2013.
- Since the late 2000s, the organisation has been unable to carry out a successful conduct of multilateral trade negotiations.
- **Inability of WTO to bring together the developed and developing countries to build consensus on Doha Agenda.**
- Declining role of dispute settlement body. It has not been able to enforce its rulings effectively.
- The U.S. and the EU have been losing interest in multilateralism in trade.
- US having stepped back from its traditional leadership role when it comes to international trade.
- Trump's position of 'America First', and now slowly dismantling the working of the WTO system, will have long-term effects on global trade.
- **As the U.S. loses interest in multilateralism in trade, India should actively try to arrest the organisation's slide.**
- India needs to work on persuading all members of the WTO to return to the table and negotiate on issues like agriculture, industrial tariffs, and services.
- India's positions have much in common with the African nations' stand; we have to build bridges with Africa.

- India's journey towards achieving 5 trillion dollar economy is not possible without expansion of our basket of global trade.
- WTO needs to reinvent itself, focusing on issues where consensus can be built.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/The-Divide-of-the-WTO-3.pdf>

5. U.S withdrawal from UNESCO

- U.S. announced its withdrawal from UNESCO accusing it of 'anti-Israel bias'.
- The U.S. earlier had once withdrawn from the UNESCO, in 1984, accusing it of favouring the Soviet Union, and re-joined the U.N. body in 2002.
- It shows the **powerful influence of Israel on American foreign policy.**
- **Reasons for U.S Withdrawal**
 - UNESCO had designated the old city of Hebron a Palestinian world heritage site.
 - Israel deeply criticized this decision, as it ignores centuries of Jewish history there.
 - UNESCO had passed a resolution defining Israel as an "occupying power" in Jerusalem, criticizing Israel's archaeological digs around the city.
 - In light of these decisions by UNESCO, the United States withdrew.
 - U.S. laws bar funding to any U.N. agency that recognises the Palestinian state.
- Actions such as the **withdrawal from the Paris Agreement** and the **decertification of the Iran nuclear deal** point to an **increasingly isolationist U.S. attitude toward international affairs.**
- United States withdrawal will impact U.S. power over international affairs.
- If U.S. withdraws, then China takes the space.
- There is lot of criticism about UNESCO in every executive committee meeting about bloated bureaucracy and excessive spending.
- Other countries like Japan too have had issues with UNESCO.
- There is a need to depoliticise the agenda of the organisation.
- UNESCO must adhere to its purpose, its charter and the political issues must be settled in UNSC and UNGA.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/US-withdrawal-from-UNESCO.pdf>

6. United Nations pact to ban Nuclear Weapons

- Over 120 countries in the United Nations voted to adopt the first-ever global treaty to ban nuclear weapons.
- India and eight other nuclear - armed nations, including the US, China and Pakistan did not participate in the negotiations for the legally binding instrument to prohibit atomic weapons.
- **The goal is to declare it illegal for any country to produce, possess, stockpile, deploy, and use nuclear weapons.**
- **Need of the Treaty**
 - Nuclear weapons are the means of mass destruction and history has shown their use brings immeasurable death and suffering.

- The NPT of 1968 contains only partial prohibitions, and nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties prohibit nuclear weapons only within certain geographical regions.
- As of 2016, it is estimated that more than 15,000 nuclear warheads remain in global stockpiles.
- **Criticism**
 - Accession to the treaty is incompatible with the policy of nuclear deterrence, which has been essential to keeping the peace in Europe and North Asia for over 70 years.
 - US, UK and France, the permanent members of UNSC did not become party to it. This disregards the realities of the international security environment.
- India believes that the Treaty in no way constitutes to the development of any customary international law.
- **India supports Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention which is the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiation forum working on the basis of consensus.**
- **Past attempts to prevent increase of nuclear weapons**
 - Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) 1963.
 - Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) — signed 1968, came into force 1970.
 - Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) 1972.
 - Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) — signed 1996, not yet in force.
 - Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), 1974.
 - Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), 1987.
 - International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, also known as the Hague Code of Conduct (HCOC), 2002.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/United-Nations-pact-to-ban-Nuclear-Weapons.pdf>

Security issues

NOTES

1. Raising India's Defence Expenditure

- The issue of defence expenditure in India has been the subject of debate.
- The Seventh Schedule of the Constitution vests the Central Government with the responsibility of national defence.
- It is **estimated that India's defence sector requires \$130-150 billion for modernisation and restructuring** in order to become self-reliant in the coming decade.
- **Promoting 'Make in India' in defence production** require a proper infrastructure creation and that requires huge money.
- Defence projects worth around billions of dollars are not moving due to paucity of funds.
- **India risks its national security with low allocations to defence spending.**
- **Present Status:**
 - **India's defence expenditure is at 1.49% of GDP**, stated to be at its lowest ever.
 - This is lower than what it was prior to the disastrous 1962 war with China.
 - But 1.49% does not include defence pensions and Ministry of Defence spending.
 - If both are included, the total defence expenditure rises to 2.16% of GDP.
 - Data for the past decade show this figure, too, has been falling — it was 2.78% in 2009-10.
 - **Large share of resources is going towards human resources costs, leaving very little for modernisation.**
 - With OROP and the new Pay Commission, defence pensions alone have risen from around 18% of defence spending in 2013-14 to 27% in 2018-19.
 - This increase has largely come at the cost of capital procurement.
- **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence recommended that expenditure on defence be increased to at least 3% of GDP.**
- The existing allocation for defence for 2018-19 is 27% of the total tax revenue, which will shoot up to 38% if the allocation is raised to 3% of GDP.
- A solution lies in **fixing the current imbalance** in the defence budget.
- The newly created **Defence Planning Committee (DPC)** must ensure drawing up of a holistic and integrated defence plan that takes into account the scarcity of resource as well as the genuine security needs of the country.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Raising-India%E2%80%99s-Defence-Expenditure.pdf>

2. India's Underwater Capability

- According to **Spykman theory of rimland**, the **coastal areas or littorals of Eurasia are key to controlling the World Island.**
- This means those **who control the littorals can control the world.**

- So if India wants to be a global power it needs to **strengthen its capability in Indian Ocean Region**.
- Indian Ocean gives India access to the South-Asia, South East Asia, Africa, West Asia and Oceania which are important from the point of view of energy, economic trade and security.
- The **submarine arm of the Indian Navy celebrated its golden jubilee year in December 2017**.
- **India's growing Capability:**
 - **INS Kalvari** would be a significant milestone in the navy's submarine-building programme.
 - The second of the Scorpenes under construction, **Khanderi**, is undergoing rigorous phase of sea trials.
 - India operates a fleet of 14 conventional submarines, including INS Kalvari, INS Chakra and INS Arihant.
 - The commissioning of INS Arihant completed **India's nuclear triad** or the ability to launch strategic weapons from land, air and sea.
- As the biggest nation in the Indian Ocean region, it becomes incumbent upon India to ensure peace and stability.
- In June 2016 a Chinese spy ship tailed two Indian Navy warships in Japanese territorial waters.
- The **naval power is critical for India to consolidate its strategic interests in the Indian Ocean Region & South China Sea**.
- **Concerns / Challenges:**
 - India's underwater fleet is way behind China which has far superior underwater capability.
 - As far as Project-75I is concerned, little progress has been made in the past 10 years.
 - The Indian Navy does not have a dedicated deep submergence rescue vessel (DSRV) even as it enters its 51st year.
- On the 50th anniversary of the Navy's submarine arm, it's a wake-up call on acquiring dedicated rescue vessel.
- **India must have a credible underwater capability with a judicious mix of conventional and nuclear-propelled submarines**.
- India needs to push harder to meet the target of building 24 submarines by the year 2030.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Indias-Underwater-Capability.pdf>

3. Cyber Security in India

- Cyber security is concerned with making cyberspace safe from threats.
- Cyber is no more limited to security only, it is now linked with socio economics as well, which includes politics, industry, health, education and critical infrastructure.
- Cyber security spends in India are rising rapidly because of the massive digitisation movement.
- The **ransomware attacks** in the past have added to the urgency of these spends.

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- Demonetisation and the government's push for Digital India have pushed demand for cyber security talent.
- **India hosted the 15th Conference of the Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (APCERT)**
 - Government announced that it will fund and encourage research and Ph.Ds students in the area of cyber security.
 - Grant Rs. 5 crore to start-ups doing innovation in the field of cyber security.
 - Engage in "**cyber diplomacy**" as there is a need to strengthen the online security apparatus with a global perspective.
- New technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning also face new challenges for cyber security.
- Nations must take responsibility to ensure that the digital space does not become a playground for the dark forces of terrorism and radicalization.
- Coordination among CERTs of different countries.
- Need for India to move on from IT security to cyber security.
- Organisations that are hit by cyber-attacks must inform law enforcement immediately instead of worrying about their reputations.
- Important to have **crisis management plans** so that it helps to react in a given situation.

Miscellaneous

NOTES

1. China's Growing Footprint on the Globe

- China is escalating its investment and infrastructure development across the globe.
- The isolationism of the US Trump administration has created an international leadership vacuum that China is eager to fill.
- China's footprint is growing with its One Belt, One Road infrastructure project, with \$1 trillion investments across Asia and Europe to revive ancient trade routes through a massive rail and maritime network.
- It is deepening economic involvement in volatile countries like Myanmar and Zimbabwe.
- **China's Growing Footprint:**
 - China is the world's biggest consumer of illegally poached wildlife and wildlife products.
 - Over the past 15 years, China's appetite for ivory has largely driven a global collapse of elephant populations.
 - Illegal timber still flows across China's border with Myanmar.
 - China's One Belt One Road initiative will carve new roads, railroads, ports, and industries in at least 70 nations across Asia, Europe, and Africa.
 - China's first overseas military base in Djibouti and building militarised islands in the disputed South China Sea.
 - China is pushing to build a 5,000km railroad across South America, to make it cheaper for China to import timber, minerals, soy and other natural resources from ports along South America's Pacific coast.
- A close look reveals that China's international agenda is exploitative, especially for the global environment.
- The infrastructure projects by China will open a Pandora's Box of environmental crises, including large-scale deforestation, habitat fragmentation, wildlife poaching, water pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
- In the Amazon, for example, big mining projects cause serious local degradation and promote widespread deforestation.
- A World Bank study of more than 3,000 overseas projects funded or operated by China revealed how it treats poor nations as "pollution havens".
- Development of port infrastructure in Sri Lanka, Djibouti and Pakistan may have possibility in destruction of marine environment.
- To tackle China's environmental degradation, the countries affected and the international community has to work together.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/China%E2%80%99s-Growing-Footprint-on-the-Globe.pdf>

2. States in Indian Diplomacy

- Indian states historically have not been closely involved in the country's foreign policy.

- Today there is **increasing importance of state governments both in domestic as well as foreign policy.**
- PM Narendra Modi had visited Japan, China and Singapore when he was the chief minister and secured the best deals for the state within the overall policy of the Central government.
- In his earlier stint as Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Chandrababu Naidu negotiated with foreign governments to make Hyderabad an IT capital, prompting even presidents and prime ministers to visit the city.
- In tune with **competitive federalism**, visit of the Sharjah ruler to Kerala had discussions with the chief minister which gave tangible results.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs now has a States division**, which assist them in building bridges with the countries in which they have proximity or the presence of diaspora from that State.
- IFS officers have been asked to choose a State each to understand its special requirements and to advise them.
- High-profile MEA events like the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas are held in different parts of India.
- **International Practices**
 - Countries like the U.S. and China encourage their State governments to take economic delegations to foreign countries and establish their own trading offices abroad.
 - China's enhanced people-to-people linkages with countries like the United States and Australia through sister province and **sister city agreements.**
- **States taking over the interests of the Centre:**
 - As regional parties began to exert influence at the national level, States began to dictate terms even in foreign policy.
 - The Chief Minister of West Bengal stopped signing an agreement on sharing of Teesta waters with Bangladesh.
 - Political parties in Tamil Nadu had insisted that India should support the U.S. resolution against Sri Lanka in the Human Rights Council, and also stopped the Prime Minister from attending a Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).
 - Kerala had insisted that the Italian marines who killed two fishermen should be tried in India and punished here, causing a rift in India's relations with the European Union.
- The States must develop expertise on foreign affairs to be able to take responsible decisions in their interaction with foreign lands.
- States should be involved in dialogues with countries where there is a significant diaspora, or where state governments have significant economic interests.
- **Reference:** <http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/States-in-Indian-Diplomacy.pdf>