



# BPSC

Prelims & Mains

**Bihar Public Service Commission**

**General Studies**

**Paper 1 – Volume 4**

**International Relationship**



**G.S. PAPER – 1 VOLUME – 4**

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

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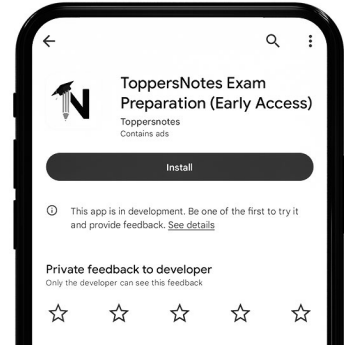
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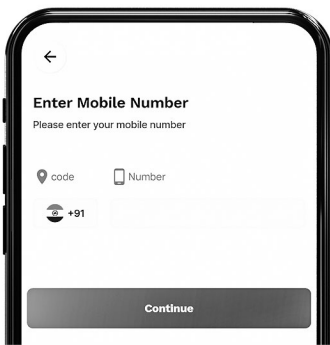
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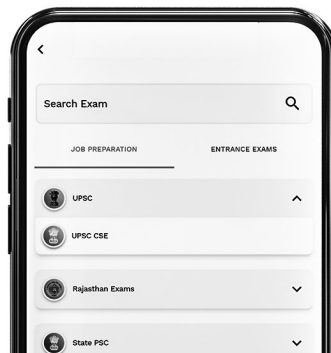
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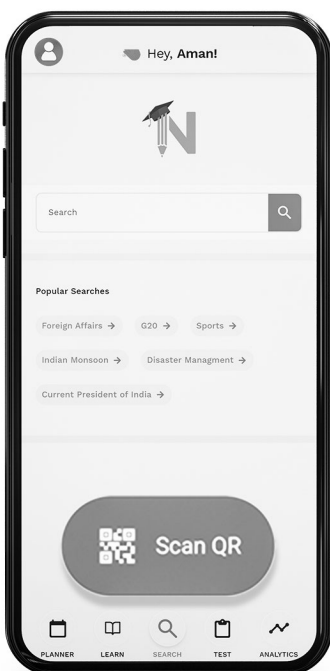
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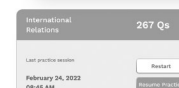
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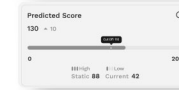
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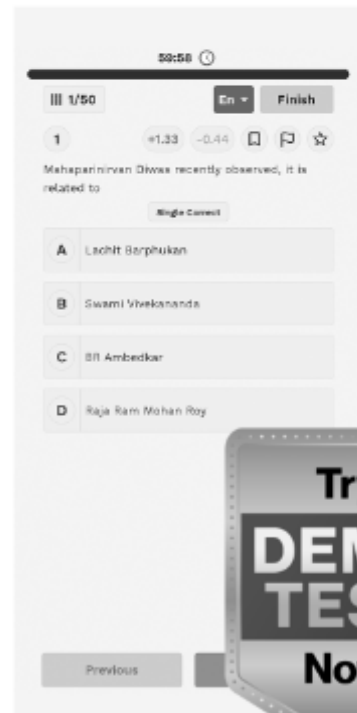
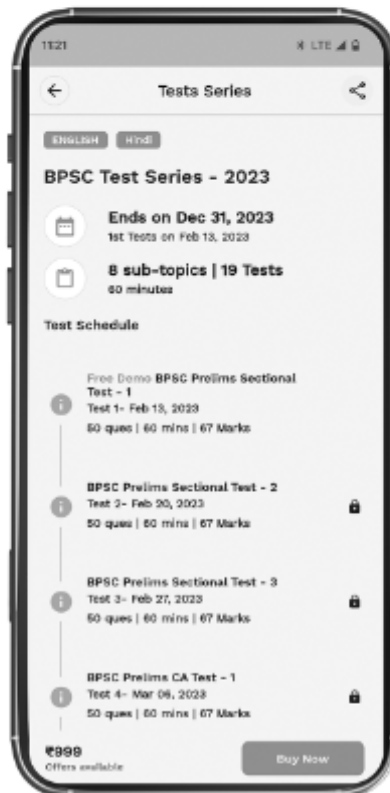
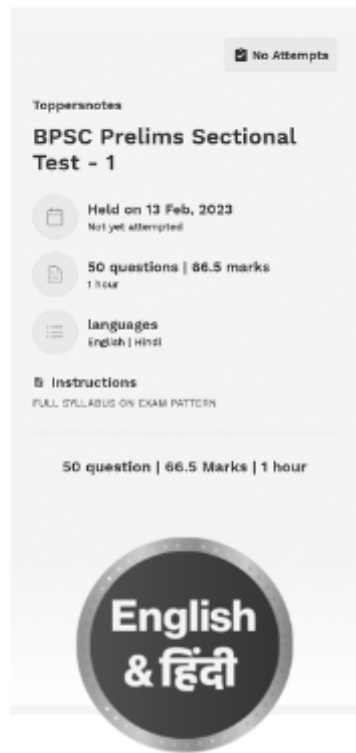
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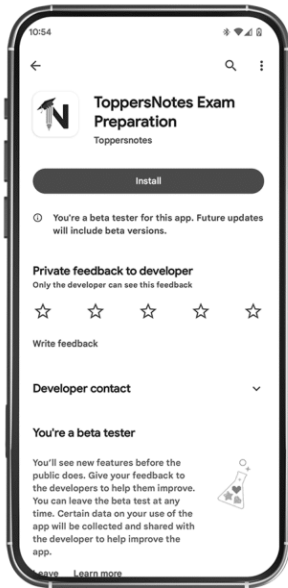
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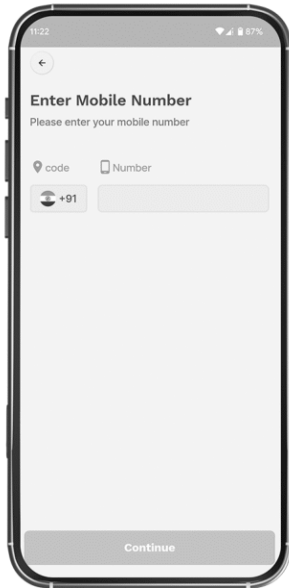


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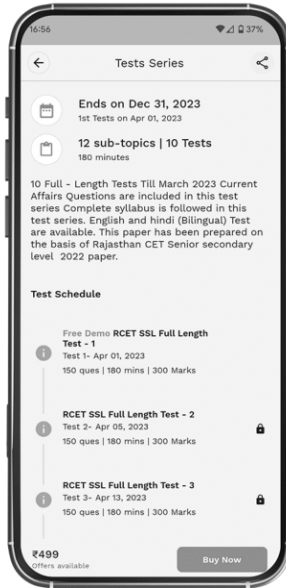
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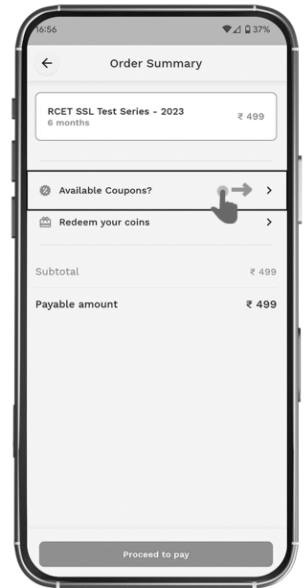
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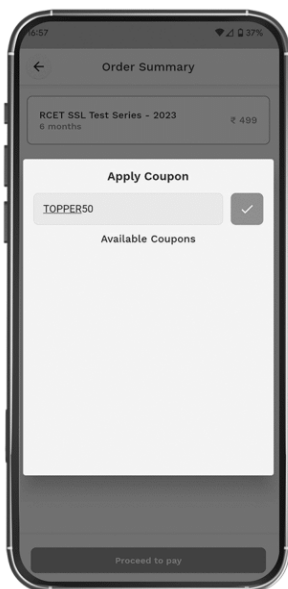
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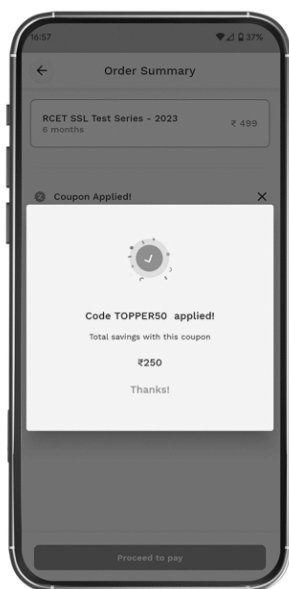
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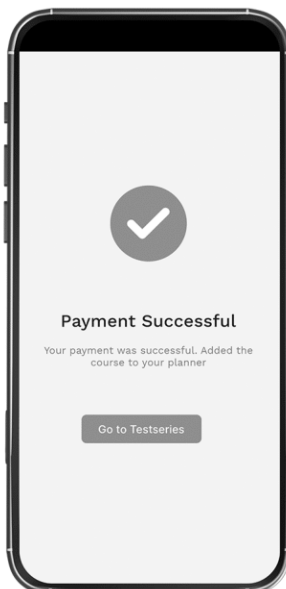
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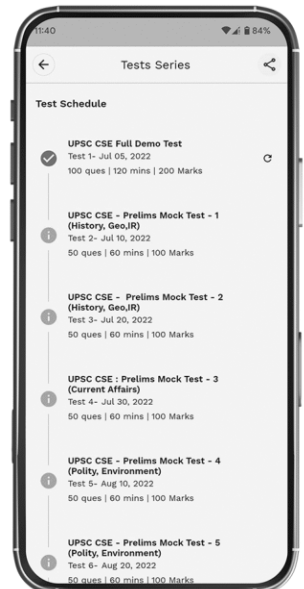
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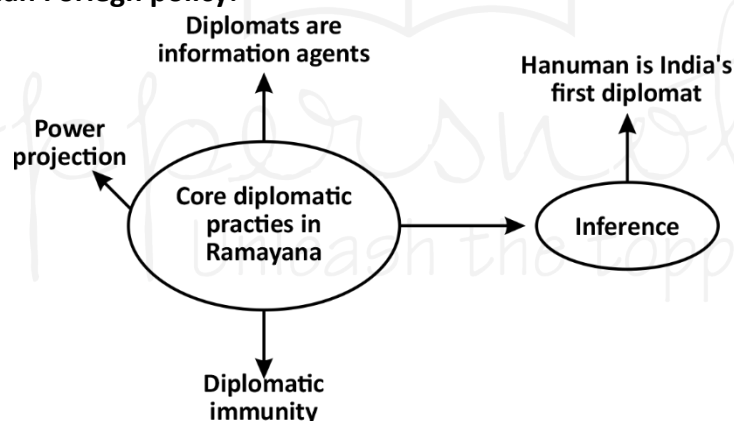
# 1 CHAPTER

# Evolution of India's Foreign Policy



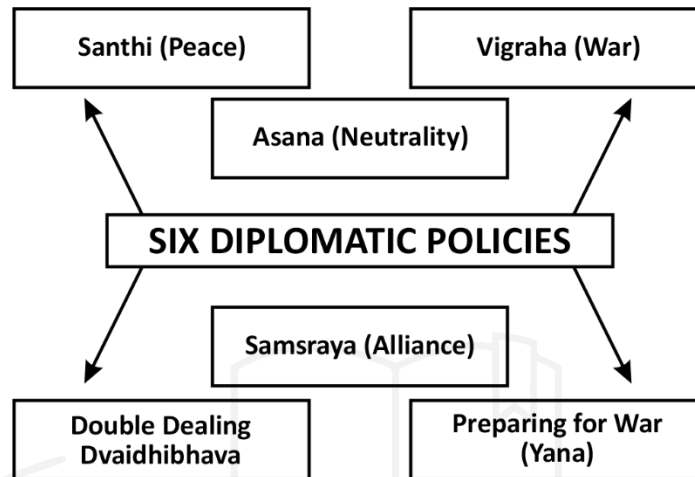
## Ancient Foreign Policy

- **Source:** Numerous diplomatic instances from ancient Indian scriptures.
  - **Manu-Smriti** - commenting on different roles of authorities in a State.
  - **Chankya's Arthashastra** - world's first comprehensive treatise on diplomatic practice, narrates Indian diplomacy.
- **Envoys:** Megasthenes, Deimachos, Dionysius etc
- **Indus Valley Civilization:** Trade flourished with Oman, Dilmun, Magan and Meluhha, Mesopotamia by sea.
  - **Evidences:** carnelian, lapis lazuli, copper, gold, Jar, Seals etc
- **Jainism and Buddhism**
  - **Origin :** India
  - **Flourished :** China, Sri-Lanka, Tibet etc.
- **Ramayana and Indian Foreign policy:**



- **Principles adopted from Ramayana:**
  - **Hanumana as diplomat:** delivered sensitive information b/w Sita & Ram without distorting it
  - **Hanumana acted as a power projector:** projected power of Ram in Ravana's court.
  - **Diplomatic immunity:** Vibheeshana defended Hanuman, on grounds that he had come to Lanka as an emissary from a foreign state and cannot be put to death.
- **Arthashastra of Kautilya and Indian Foreign Policy**
  - Concerned with statecraft and conduct of foreign policy and diplomacy.
  - **Theory of Mandala i.e. Rajmandala i.e. Circle of the States:**
    - **Vijigishu:** world conqueror.
    - **Ari:** whose territory is contiguous to Vijigishu, is a natural enemy.
    - **Mitra:** an ally of Vijigishu whose territory is immediately beyond the enemy or ari.
    - **Arimitra:** enemy's ally, who is immediate beyond ally.
    - **Mitra-Mitra:** an ally immediately beyond the enemy's ally.

- **Ari Mitra-Mitra:** an **ally of enemy's ally** situated immediately beyond Mitra –Mitra.
  - **Parshnigraha:** **enemy, rear of Vijigishu.** Don't attack; Try irritating from behind.
  - **Akranda:** **Vijugishu's ally in the rear** behind that of Parish Nigraha.
  - **Parshnigrahasara:** enemy's ally, **ally of Parshnigraha behind Akranda .**
  - **Akrandsara:** **ally of Akranda** behind Parshnigrahasara, ultimately an ally.
  - **Madhyama:** Middle king with territory adjoining Vijigishu & Ari & stronger than both.
  - **Udasina:** **neutral** & more powerful than Vijigishu, Ari, and Madhyama.
- **Shadguna Sidhanta i.e. Six measures of foreign policy**



- **Sandhi** (making a **treaty** when one is relatively weaker than his enemy).
  - **Vigraha** (Adoption of **Hostility** when one is stronger than enemy)
  - **Asana** (**Remaining quiet** and wait for enemy to get weaker/ in calamities/ war)
  - **Yana** (**Marching on an expedition** when one is surely stronger than his enemy)
  - **Sansraya:** (**seeking shelter** with another king during attack by a powerful enemy)
  - **Dvaidhibhava:** (**policy of Sandhi with 1 king and Vigraha with another at a time**)
- **Saptanga Theory of State:** For efficient governance of state

Limbs	Meaning	Present Indian state
Swami	King	President
Amatya	Ministers	PM + Cabinet
Janapada	Territory and Population	Territorial boundaries
Durga	Fort	Rashtrapati Bhawan
Kosa	Treasury	Finance Ministry
Bala	Army	Defence Forces
Mitra	Ally	Countries like Russia, etc.

## Medieval Foreign Policy

- **Kingdoms of South of India on West Coast**, maintained diplomatic relations with States along **Arabian Sea Littoral and Indian Ocean littoral in Africa.**
- Kingdoms on **East-Coast and South**, maintained relations with **Ceylon, Burma, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaya**
- **Afghan and Turkish** rulers based in India, maintained diplomatic relations with **Central Asia, Persia, Arab world, Asia Minor, Greece, Levant, Tibet and China.**
- **Mughals** maintained diplomatic relations with neighbours & Portuguese, Franch, British, etc.

- In times of **Akbar, India**: largest economy, was a partner for economic diplomacy.
- **Themes adopted to enhance Indian footprint:**
  - **Hard Diplomacy**: Consolidated and acquired new territory through battles.
    - **Northern India**: Mughals, Arabs, Turks etc invaded India for acquiring wealth and consolidating new kingdoms in India.
    - **Southern India**: Chola, Chera, Pandays etc used strong army and navy for their diplomatic advancement.
  - **Soft Diplomacy**: Ambassadors sent by kings to strengthen the relationship + Trade

## British Era Foreign Policy

- **Industrial Revolution** in England led to discovery of new sea and trade routes.
- **Captain Hawkins and Sir Thomas Roe** sent to court of Emperor Jahangir for trade in India.
- India discovered by a **Portuguese called Vasco da Gama in 1498**.
- **English, French, Portuguese and Dutch** came to India for trade.
- **Fortified factories** in India and made India as its colony.
- **Export of raw material from India to Britain**. Import of Finished goods (Britain to India).
- **East Indian association, Swadesh Sevak Home at Vancouver, United India House in Seattle** made Indian nationalist to strengthen diplomacy against British India.
- Establishment of a provisional govt. of India in Kabul by **Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh**.
- **After 1927, Nehru** had an active role in **drafting 1st foreign policy** issued by Congress.
- **British invasion led to association with International Bodies**
- **SC Bose's diplomatic policy** made Japan to help India against british.
- India participated in **Bretton Woods Conference** in 1944.
- **Interim govt. maintained diplomatic ties** with USA, China, USSR, etc.

## Phases of India's Foreign Policy since Independence by Dr S. Jaishankar

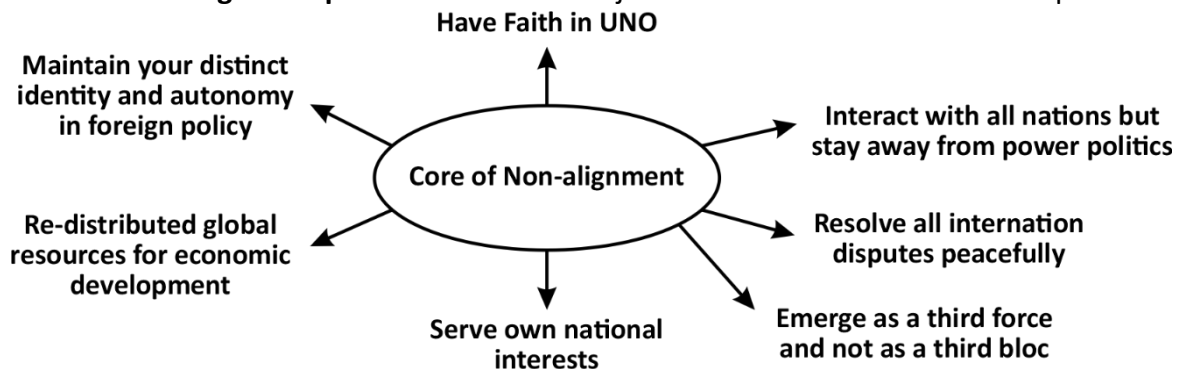
### 1. *Era of Optimistic Non-alignment (1946-1962)*

- **Diplomacy** → tool for **cooperative connections** for sustainable development.
- Adopted **policy of Five year plan**.
- **Stressed on socialist pattern** of society along with a **mixed economy**.
  - Preaching **socialisation of essential services** and basic industries within the **framework of parliamentary government** to eliminate poverty & ensuring work for all.
- India became a member of the **British Commonwealth**.
- **India's foreign policy was based on Panchsheel principles**.
- India **backed newly liberated countries** in their fight against imperialism.
  - **Provided leadership** to 3rd world countries by **initiatives like NAM, Panchsheel and Bandung Conference**.
- **India - 1st country** to embrace a **policy of non-alignment**.

#### Non alignment movement (NAM)

- **Founded: 1961, Belgrade** at the height of the Cold War.
- **Leaders: Josip Broz Tito** of Yugoslavia, **Gamal Abdel Nasser** of Egypt, **J L Nehru** of India, **Kwame Nkrumah** of Ghana, and **Sukarno** of Indonesia.

- **First Conference: Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in September 1961.**
- for **maintaining world peace** and was the major element in the decolonization process.



- **Purpose and Objectives:**
  - **National independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of non-aligned countries.**
  - **Struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, and all forms of foreign subjugation.**
- **NAM for India:**
  - India's economic progress was **entwined with both the east and the west.**
  - A **solution to the Cold War** era's bipolar divisions.
  - **safeguard of India's strategic autonomy** without jeopardising independence by partnering with either superpower in the Cold War.

### **Bandung conference**

- **1st large-scale Afro-Asian Conference** (most newly independent)
- Took place on **18–24 April 1955 in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia.**
- **Principles:**
  1. Respect for **fundamental human rights.**
  2. Respect for the **sovereignty and territorial integrity** of all nations.
  3. Recognition of the **equality among all races** and of the **equality among all nations**
  4. **Non-intervention or non-interference** into the internal affairs of another -country.
  5. Respect **right of every nation to defend itself** in conformity with UN Charter
  6. **Non-use of collective defence pacts** to benefit interests of any of the great powers and **Non-use of pressures by any country** against other countries.
  7. **Refraining from carrying out aggression**, or from using force **against the territorial integrity** or political independence of any country.
  8. **Peaceful solution of all international conflicts** in conformity with UN Charter
  9. **Promotion of mutual interests** and of cooperation.
  10. **Respect for justice** and of international obligations

### **Panchsheel**

- Formally enunciated in **Agreement on Trade and Intercourse b/w Tibet and India.**
- Signed on **April 29, 1954.** Adopted as principal core of NAM.
- **Panchsheel principles : -**

- **Mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty** of each other
- **Non-aggression**
- **Non interference** in each other's military affairs
- **Mutual benefit and equality**
- **Peaceful coexistence**
- **Burma, China, Laos, Nepal, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, and Cambodia** agreed to it.

- **India - founding member of UN - signed the UN Charter** on 26 June, **1945**.
- Visited **Russia in 1955 and China in 1954** to strengthen foreign policy.
- Believed **rapid industrialisation** → most effective way **to come over mass poverty**.
- **External Aggression:** Successfully contained Pakistan and China with diplomacy at UN.
- India diplomatically supported **Tibet and gave asylum** to Dalai Lama.

#### **Criticism to foreign policy of the Time:**

- **Defeat in Sino-India war-1962** led to criticism of **India's stand to support China for UNSC**.
- **The US-China-Pakistan axis** made **India isolated** strategically and politically.
- **USSR - an ally of India but stayed "Neutral"** in the **Indo-China war, 1962**.
- Taking the **Kashmir issue to the UN** is also been criticised.
- Overall **relations with Pakistan** didn't improve.
- Following **NAM** sometimes **went unfavorable** for both sides. e.g. During **Korean war**.

## ***2. Decade of Realism and Recovery (1962-1971)***

- **Continued previous policy of non-alignment.**
- **Re-est.d cordial relationship with Burma.**
- **Agreements/ Initiatives:**
  - with **Sri Lanka (Bandaranaike-Shastri Pact)** on **persons of Indian origin**.
  - signed **Tashkent Declaration with Pakistan** under **Soviet moderation**, 10th Jan. 1966.
    - parties agreed to **withdraw all armed forces** to positions held before Aug. 5, 1965;
    - **To restore diplomatic relations with Pakistan;**
    - **To discuss economics, refugees, and other questions.**
    - **To repatriate their prisoners of war**
  - **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC)**, and **Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme** launched in 1964.
- **Events that shaped India's foreign policy during this period**
  - **External Condition**
    - **Indo-China war (1962):** Huge economic implications.
    - **Cuban Missile Crisis** in 1962.
    - Establishment of **Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT)** in 1968.
  - **Inability to realize situations of 1965**
    - **Indo-Pak war 1965**→Tashkent restored territorial status quo ante bellum.
    - **USSR and US** declared their **intentions to help Pakistan**.
  - **Unfavorable circumstances at home**
    - **Drought and near-famine** conditions persisted in country.
    - reliant on **grain imports from US** in exchange for rupee concessions + **Green Rev.**

- Secured financial help, **World Bank+IMF, forced to weaken Indian rupee** in 1966.
- **Rawalpindi-Beijing-Washington nexus**
  - Increasing **US-China coop.** and American backing to Pakistan.
  - **Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation** signed in August 1971. Built closer relations with **Soviet Union**.

### **3. Phase of Regional Assertion (1971-1991)**

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#### **India's Foreign Policy from 1971 to 1984**

- **Indo-Pakistan War 1971 and Bangladesh**
    - **liberation of Bangladesh** and Defeated Pakistan, also **slapped Pakistan's behind curtain friend USA**. Pakistan lost half of its territory with birth of Bangladesh.
    - Started a **new chapter of friendship with USSR**.
  - **Shimla Agreement:** Rebuilding **peace with Pakistan** shortly after 1971 Bangladesh war.
    - **Failed to resolve Kashmir issue**.
  - **Changes in South Asia's strategic environment: Defeat of Pakistan estd. India as a regional force in South Asia.**
    - Emphasised on **cordial relationship** with its immediate neighbours.
    - Signed a **long-term peace and friendship treaty** with Bangladesh.
  - **Relations with Sri Lanka: Ceded island of Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka.**
    - **Assisted Tamilians brethren in hardship in Sri Lanka**.
    - **Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord** signed in **Colombo on 29 July 1987**.
    - **Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF)** dispatched to Sri Lanka..
  - **Boundary and sea zone pacts with Sri Lanka (1974& 1976), Indonesia (1974) and Bangladesh (1974 by resolving Berubari union issue);**
  - **Strong nuclear strategy and nuclear tests** in 1974.
  - **Relations with Pakistan under Haq: Relations remained fragile since partition.**
    - Pakistan described **India's nuclear tests in 1974 as an act of intimidation**.
    - 1978, both countries chose to **restore diplomatic relations** but Pakistan was soon placed **under military dictatorship**
  - **Attempts made to enhance relations with China.**
  - **Indo-Soviet:**
    - Started a **new chapter of friendship with USSR**.
    - **Aided India** in fending off **challenges posed by China, Pakistan, and West**.
    - **Delhi Declaration, 1986:** endorsed **Gandhian philosophy of non-violence**.
    - Collaborated on **nuclear, power, space, and high-temperature physics**.
  - **Friendship with Iran.**
  - **Indo-US: Political, economic, cultural, and social relations reoriented.**
    - **Agreement for transfer of high technology** and procurement of **Super Computer** signed.
    - **Strengthen ties by increasing exchanges and promoting trade**.
  - **Indo-Africa:**
    - Successful in establishing **AFRICA (Action for Resisting Invasion, Colonialism, and Apartheid) Fund** at Non-Aligned Summit in Harare in 1986.
-

- Extended assistance to **Namibia in form of SWAPO** (South West Africa People's Organisation) recogniti
- **Head of State visit to Myanmar** to develop a working relationship to restrain Chinese-trained and armed insurgents in India's North East.
- Efforts to **develop relations with ASEAN**.
- Played a **key part in negotiating Vietnam's withdrawal from Cambodia**, representing country's non-alignment policy.

#### **4. Quest for Strategic Autonomy (1991-1998)**

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##### **India's foreign policy during this period**

- **Necessary adjustments** allowed India to be recognised as a major power.
- Skillful maintenance of global alliances while taking into account the impact of home variables such as separatist uprisings and economic reforms on our foreign policy.
- **Effects of globalization on global economy** and politics had intensified.
- Paradigm shift = **enhancing ties with Israel** while also **gaining Arab nations' trust**.
- **End of Cold War** resulted in a no. of significant changes in international order.
- **Changing Superpower relationships**
  - **Bipolar nature of world politics ended** - US looked to be sole superpower; and each nation began the process of rebuilding its foreign policy to fit new system.
  - **India relations with Soviet Union** strained. Russia is still dealing with post-Cold War challenges. **Its relations with US improved.**
  - When **govt. opted to pursue a market economy**, it drew in **American and other foreign investors**.
  - US-India Commercial Alliance (USICA) founded in 1995.
  - US designated India as a "**Big Emerging Market.**"
- **Bringing India into Liberalization Era**
  - To adapt to new global context, **India began reshaping India's foreign policy**.
  - **Reforming and liberalizing India's economy** under constant push of **globalization**,
  - **Most industries delicensed** and rupee devalued by 23%.
  - **Import tariffs reduced**, import **restrictions lifted**.
  - A **market-determined exchange rate** mechanism was implemented.
  - For 1st time **since independence, FDI expanded dramatically**.
- **Look East Policy**
  - **India concentrated on South-East Asia** as a result of this policy, which had been neglected for a long time during the Cold War.
- **Initiatives in Security**
  - **Initiated ambitious Ballistic Missile Technology Program** in 1992 to **boost India's foreign security programme**, successfully tested ASLV and PSLV.
  - **1st successful tests of Prithvi Missile** conducted in 1994.
  - **US irritated by ballistic missile programme**, but because of economic concerns, relations did not deteriorate significantly.

##### **Relationships b/w Neighbours**

- **India's relations with its neighbours also improved.**
-



- Indian **PM visited China** in 1993, **easing** some **tensions** b/w two countries.
- **South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA)**, 1995 = India + SAARC countries.
- **Sri Lanka**, engaged in **economic diplomacy**, announced a no. of collaborative ventures.

### Gujral Doctrine

- **Collection of 5 principles**, designed to guide **India's foreign policy** toward its immediate neighbours. Recognised **importance of friendly, cordial relations with neighbours**.
- **Principles:**
  - India **does not demand reciprocity from its neighbours** but instead gives and accommodates what it can in good faith and trust.
  - No country in **South Asia should allow its territory** to be used against another.
  - **No country** should meddle in **another country's domestic affairs**.
  - **Territorial integrity and sovereignty** of each South Asian country must be respected.
  - All of their **disagreements should be resolved** through **peaceful bilateral dialogue**.

## **5. Balancing Power (1998-2014)**

### India's Foreign Policy during this period

- **Lahore summit and Kargil War** took place during PM Vajpayee's tenure.
- **Strengthening relations with trade blocs**
  - **Vajpayee visited Vietnam and Indonesia** and **negotiated** economic and commercial **deals** as part of his Look East Policy.
  - **Vajpayee govt.** also **created strong trade ties with ASEAN**, which had previously had little to do with India.
  - **1st India-EU summit** took place in Lisbon in June 2000.
- **India conducted nuclear tests** in 1998. **Unilaterally committed to:**
  - **Informal moratorium on additional nuclear tests**
  - Vow to **"No First Use" (NFU)** of nuclear weapons. **India** provided a measure of **crisis stability on South Asian subcontinent**. Also **averting a full-fledged arms race**.
  - **India and US** held their **longest-ever diplomatic talks**, which lasted 3 years.
- **IBSA Dialogue Forum** estd in 2003 as a result of the "Brasilia Declaration."
- **Agra Summit, 2001: Musharraf visited India** to **normalise relations** b/w two countries.
  - Conference **failed to yield a favourable resolution** due to Musharraf's adamant stance on Kashmir problem.
- **Bangladesh-India-Myanmar Trilateral Agreement, 2005**
- **Pakistan-Afghanistan-China**
  - **Took Kinder attitude** to Pakistan
  - **Recommended a "ten-pronged plan"** to enhance relations b/w the two countries.
  - **India** became the **top regional donor in Afghanistan**.
- **Manmohan Singh Chose not to depart from Vajpayee's agenda** of enhanced engagement with US, China, and Pakistan, 3 countries most important in India's foreign relations.
- **Indo-US: New beginning of relations. India-US Civil Nuclear Cooperation, 2005**
  - With help of Washington, **Delhi received a clean waiver from NSG**, thereby **recognising** it as a **nuclear state**.

- **Russia: India's relationship with Russia remained steady.**
- **China: India's approach - "basis of mutual respect and mutual sensitivity".**
- **Pakistan: Tried to bring Pakistan on the table with India.**
  - **Indian PM undertook Bus journey to Pakistan** in February 1999, widely appreciated for starting negotiations **to resolve long-pending dispute.**
- **Deepening of relationship with Nepal and Sri-Lanka.**

#### **Manmohan Doctrine**

- Argued that **India's relations with world's powers + neighbours**, defined by its **development priorities.**
- **India will gain from deeper integration** with global economy.
- **India should collaborate with international community** to establish a **global economic and security climate** that benefits all countries.
- **Regional institutional capacity and regional connection** should be **prioritized.**

## **6. *Energic Diplomacy (2014-Present)***

### **India's Foreign Policy during this period**

- **Focus on formulating a long-term foreign policy.**
  - **development of connections b/w neighbouring nations, improved international economic relations, and pushed modernization** to forefront of defence ministry.
- **India usually adopted a "non-aligned" foreign policy.**
- **New Delhi more assertive in international relations**, particularly with Pakistan.
- **Objectives of foreign policy included:**
  - **Improved relations** with neighbours, as peace and tranquility in South Asia
  - **Notion of paradiplomacy** estd. in India.
  - With **exception** of a few major global powers with whom India has a strategic partnership, **bilateral trade will dominate relations with vast majority of countries.**
- **Essential Aims:**
  - **To restore India's place on global arena.**
  - **To restore international investor trust in India's economy** and political system.

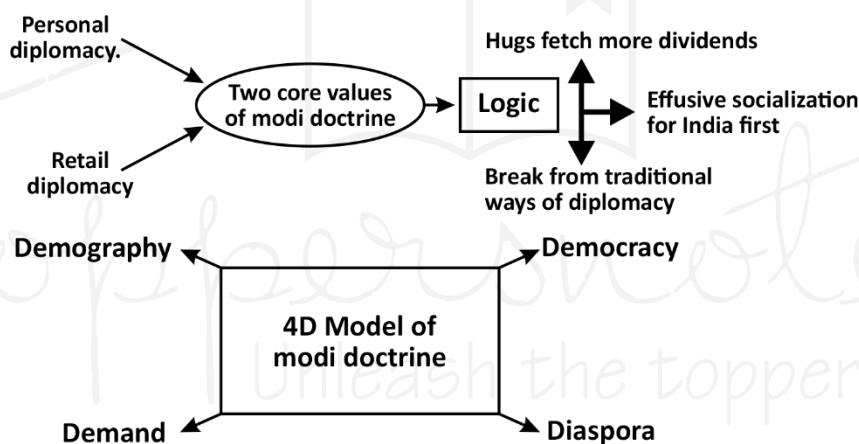
### **Changes in Foreign Policy**

- **Centrality of economic and technological development**
  - **India's economic development goal:** country's motto since independence.
  - **Acknowledgement of role of "technology"** in all elements of economic development.
  - **Comparison of Indian economy's technological capabilities to global practices** and/or global technology frontier.
- **Domestic and foreign policy integration:** Swachh Bharat, Digital India/Smart Cities.
- **Emphasis on national power: Built on basis of economic power**, which must be topped by military-strategic force, and further topped by "soft power.
- **Soft power and global sociopolitics are being given more attention:** An increased emphasis on global socio-politics and "**soft power,**" **3rd dimension of national strength.**
  - **Includes spread of common ground** based on **India's religious and cultural legacy** and history + Indian diaspora worldwide.

- **Confident pragmatism: Removing self-imposed, historical, and mental barriers** to realising full potential of any country's economic or security ties.
  - **India's economic contacts with potential rivals** can be **pursued independently** of its security partnerships, without one restricting or entirely paralleling the other.

### Policy Initiatives

- **Neighborhood first policy**
  - **Focuses on strengthening ties with India's immediate neighbours.**
  - **SAARC leaders invited to swearing-in ceremony of Indian PM, South Asian satellite.**
- **Act East policy: Remodeled with new approach** from earlier policy of **Look East.**
- **Link West policy: for middle east to complement Act East policy.**
- **Indian Ocean Outreach: India began to reach out to its maritime neighbours in IOR.**
  - **Projected strategic dominance over IOR , particularly in South China Sea.**
- **India First Policy: Comparative benefit-cost ratio** of interacting with different countries
- **Fast-track Diplomacy: Focus on with 3 faces, proactive, forceful, and sensitive.**
  - **Alternative to SAARC: Shift towards BIMSTEC in order to avoid Pakistan**
  - **Raisina Dialogue: exploring future opportunities for Asian integration with world.**



### Assessment of Foreign Policy during this period

- **Outcomes achieved:**
  - **Boosted confidence of foreign investors.** (greater capital inflows into India)
  - **Improved India-US ties:** sealing several trade, defense deals + joint military exercises.
  - **Enhanced Defence cooperation:** broke deadlock over sale of 36 Rafale fighter jets.
  - **Utilisation of Soft power:** International solar alliance and World Yoga, milestones of soft foreign policy.
  - India's "**surgical strike**" against militant hideouts in Pakistan received domestic praise.
- **Limitations:**
  - **Modi's China policy failed** to succeed in resolving tensions and mistrust.
  - **Self-Imposed Isolation of India: from NAM and SAARC.**
  - **Weakening Ties with Neighbors:** more worrying concern for India foreign policy
    - **China's Cheque Book Diplomacy vis-a-vis Srilanka,**
    - **Strain in relation with Bangladesh on NRC issue and**
    - **Recent border controversy with Nepal** due to release of new map.

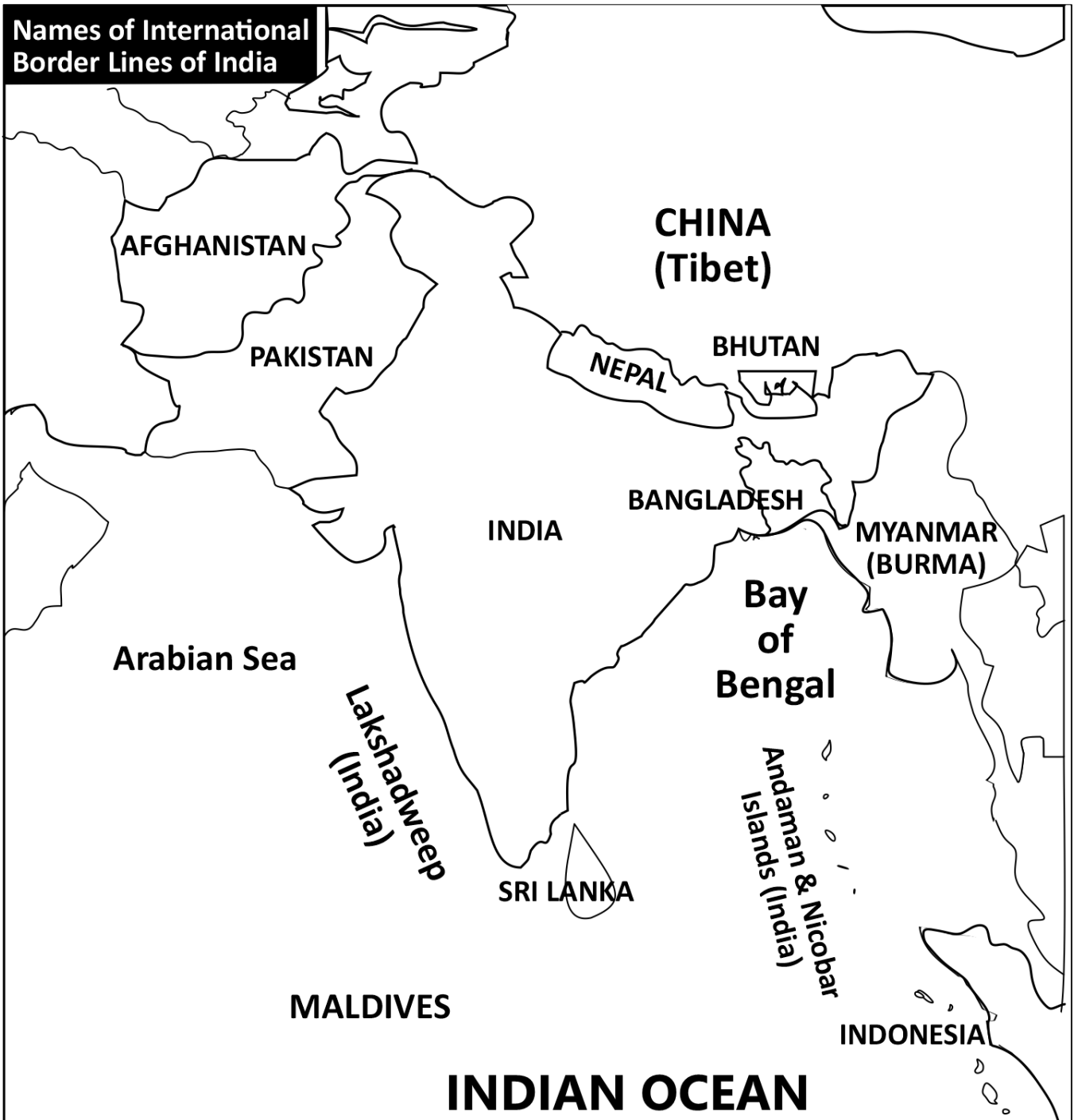
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## CHAPTER

# India and its neighbourhood

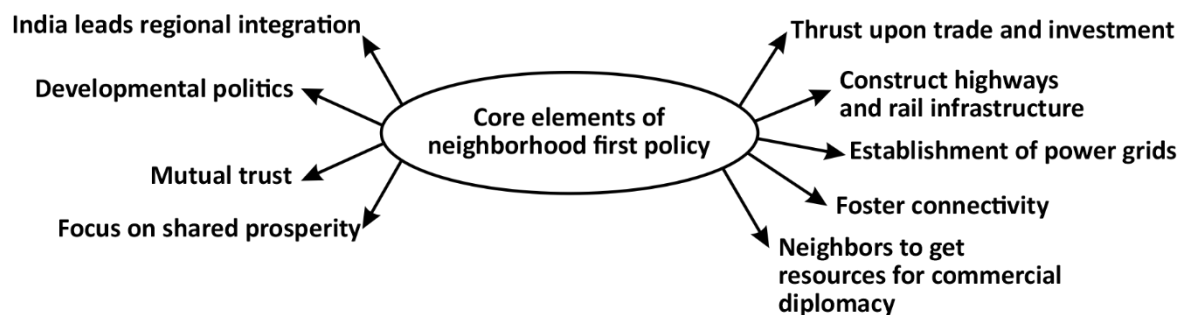


**Names of International Border Lines of India**



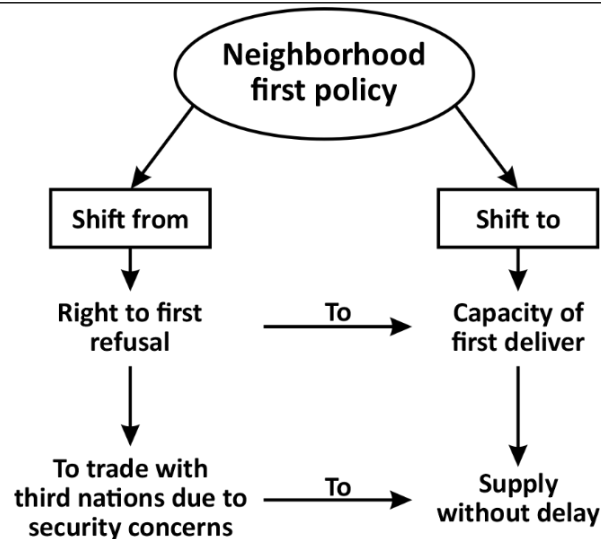
- **India's Neighbours:** Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar
  - **Maritime Neighbours:** Sri Lanka and Maldives
- **India's Policy Vision:** To promote **South Asian peace and cooperation** with an emphasis on promoting trade, connectivity, and people-to-people contact.

## Neighbourhood First Policy



### Ideology behind Neighbourhood First policy

- India should **shape rather than react** to events in its neighbourhood.
  - **consistent with India's** desire to **play a significant role** in international affairs.
- Take **more responsibility in region** via economic collaboration in mutually beneficial areas.
  - Wishes to follow a **well-defined paradigm for foreign policy**.
- At the heart is **India's economic diplomacy strategy** to put country's neighbours 1st.
- **Salient features:**
  - **Immediate priority to neighbours:** To ensure peace and tranquilly in South Asia for achieving development plan.
  - **Regional diplomacy:** Strong emphasis on engaging with neighbouring countries and forging political ties through conversation.
  - **Resolving bilateral issues:** Finding **mutually acceptable solutions** to bilateral concerns. **Eg.** India-Bangladesh inked Land Boundary Agreement (LBA).
  - **Connectivity:** **India signed a MoU with members of SAARC** to ensure free movt. of resources, energy, goods, labour, and information across national borders.
  - **Economic cooperation:** to **strengthen trade ties**. **SAARC benefited from India's participation** and investment as a mechanism for regional development. BBIN grouping for energy development, which includes motor vehicles, waterpower management, and inter-grid connectivity.
  - **Technical coop.:** **SAARC satellite** launched to share benefits of technology, such as **telemedicine and e-learning**, with people all over South Asia.
  - **Disaster management:** **India offers** disaster response, resource management, weather forecasting, and **expertise to all South Asian citizens**. India provided enormous aid in the aftermath of 2016 earthquake in Nepal.
  - **Defence coop.:** **India enhancing regional security** through exercises like **Surya Kiran, Nepal and Sampriti, Bangladesh** aimed at strengthening defence ties.
  - **Aid to Neighbours:** **goodwill gesture** in sync with value of daan or 'charity'.
    - **Technical assistance** to neighbours like **Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan**.
    - **Human Resource related training** under non-planned grants.
    - **ITEC scholarships and line of credits** as a tool of development diplomacy



### Challenges with Neighbourhood First Policy

- **Nepal:** alleges that
  - **India interfered** in internal affairs.
  - **India publicly stated its dissatisfaction** with Nepal's constitution.
  - **India resorted to a blockade**, Nepal compelled to complain to UN.
  - **India used R&AW to topple** the Oli government.
- **Sri Lanka:** allegations that **then-R&AW station chief for Sri Lanka, K Elango, intended to topple the Rajapakse govt.**
- **Maldives:** allegations that **India has been overenthusiastic** and displayed inappropriate behaviour when Nasheed arrested.
- **Pakistan: Greatest diplomatic and security dilemma.** India's difficulty is to manage ties with a state that openly uses terror as a tool of state policy and has many power centres.
- **Afghanistan:** recent **takeover by Taliban jeopardizes all developmental efforts undertaken by India in Afghanistan.**
- **China:** **expanding its footprint in the Indian subcontinent.** Construction of **Gwadar port, strings of pearls theory, OBOR initiative** has sparked scepticism in the relationship. CPEC runs through POK.
- **Bangladesh:** Unresolved issues like **Teesta river water, Issue of illegal migration** etc



### Way forward

- **Diplomacy:** India should resort to **patient diplomacy** rather than **displaying arrogance**
- **Connectivity:** Should lead in **establishing cross-border transportation & communication** ties.
- **Capacity development:** by **recruiting more foreign diplomats and bureaucrats**
- **Soft power:** India's shared culture offer an **opportunity to deepen its roots in region**
- **Economic Development:** **collaborate with neighbours to expand their markets and improve their infrastructure.** Emphasis must be on **sustainable and inclusive development.**

## India-Afghanistan

- **Officially the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. Capital:** Kabul
- **landlocked country** located at the **crossroads of Central and South Asia.**
- **Neighbours:** **Pakistan** to east and south (including a short border with Pakistani-controlled **Gilgit–Baltistan**, a territory claimed by India), **Iran** to the west, **Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan** to the north, and **Tajikistan and China** to the northeast.
- **Area:** 652,864 sq km, **predominantly mountainous** with **plains** in north & southwest separated by **Hindukush mountain range.**



### Historical relations

- **Ancient: Relations** existed since **Indus Valley Civilization.**
  - One of Alexander's successors, **Seleucus Nicator**, controlled most of Afghanistan before ceding it to **Mauryan Empire** in 305 BC as part of an alliance treaty.
- **Medieval:**
  - **10th-mid 18th century: Invasions** in northern regions of India by a number of invaders such as **Ghaznavids, Ghurids, Khaljis, Suris, Mughals, and Durranis.**
  - **Mughal period :** Afghans came to India due to **political instability** in their regions.
- **Modern:**
  - **Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan** - prominent leaders of the **Indian independence movement** and active supporters of INC.
- **Post independence: India** - only South Asian country to recognize **Soviet-backed Democratic Republic of Afghanistan** in 1980s, though relations diminished during 1990s Afghan civil war and Taliban govt.
  - **Aided overthrow of Taliban**
- **Strategic Partnership Agreement: Signed in October 2011.**
  - **Objective:** To rebuild Afghanistan's infrastructure and institutions.

- Provide Education and technical assistance to rebuild indigenous Afghan capacity
- Encouraging investment in Afghanistan's natural resources.
- Providing Afghanistan's exports duty-free access to the Indian market.
- India - 5th largest donor to Afghanistan and largest regional donor.
- India shifted focus from security-centric approach, to regional confidence building.

#### Afghanistan and Taliban

- Taliban emerged in early 1990s after withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.
- Ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001 but gross misgovernance led to US invasion.
- Since US and its allies invaded Afghanistan on the premise of killing Osama Bin Laden, the Taliban has been battling to reclaim control.
- Recently, US-Taliban Peace Deal, Withdrawal of foreign forces + Release of prisoners + Recognition of Taliban etc.
- After US withdrew, Taliban took control of Afghanistan.

#### Northern alliance

- aka Afghan Northern Alliance/ United Islamic Front.
- A united military front formed in late 1996 after Taliban took over Kabul.
  - support from Iran, Russia, Turkey, India, USA etc.
- US Entry in Afghanistan. Provided support to Northern Alliance troops on the ground in a 2-month war against Taliban, which they won in December 2001.
- Taliban forced out from control of country. later Northern Alliance dissolved as members and parties joined the new establishment of the Karzai administration.

### Areas of cooperation India Afghanistan

#### Cultural Relations

- Afghanistan = an important trading and craft center for over 2000 years connecting civilizations of Persia, Central Asia with India.
- Scholarships Programme: Reconstruction and renovation of Habibia School in Kabul.
  - India offers 500 ITEC slots to Afghanistan annually.
  - Areas of cooperation Special Scholarship Scheme of 1000 scholarships per annum to Afghan Nationals.

#### Political Relations

- 2011: Strategic Partnership Agreement signed strengthening Indo-Afghan relations.
- New chancery complex in Kabul: New embassy of India.

#### Economic Relations

- Infrastructure: Constructed with Indian aid
  - Afghan-India Friendship Dam (Salma Dam) in Herat region on Harirud river
  - Afghan Parliament

