

International Relations

9. Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO In light of the above problems point out the role of India in mitigating the problems.

Introduction

- Write about SCO.

Body

- Mention issues associated with SCO.
- India's emerging role in SCO.

Conclusion

- Conclude accordingly.

Introduction

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, international security, and defense organization established by **China and Russia in 2001**. It is the world's largest regional organization in terms of geographic scope and population, covering approximately 80% of the area of Eurasia, and 40% of the world population. As of 2021, its combined GDP was around 20% of global GDP.

Issues plaguing SCO

Decline of Russia: India's full membership into SCO was premised on the prime position of Russia in SCO due to Russia-Ukraine war.

Gap between purpose and practice: The SCO advocates peaceful resolution of conflicts, but these norms are violated by China and Pakistan in their relations with India.

Becoming China-centric: Shared borders, growing political importance, and rising regional security profile is increasing the prospects for China's emergence as the dominant force in central Asia.

Limited institutional capacity: This pose challenges in effectively implementing agreements and responding to crises.

"Anti-West" forum: SCO is increasingly seen as an "anti-West" forum and the entry of Iran in SCO has made the situation difficult for India.

Role of India in mitigating the problems in SCO

- India has actively participated in SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) to exchange intelligence, conduct joint exercises, and enhance regional security cooperation.
- India has also been a vocal advocate for promoting regional trade and investment within the SCO framework.
- According to experts India's inclusion may even bring down Beijing's overarching influence over the SCO.
- India now has one more international platform to expose Pakistan for funding terrorism in south Asia making India a global leader to fight against terrorism.
- India's commitment to tackling global issues such as climate change and pandemic response aligns with SCO's objectives.
- India's growing economy and vast market bolster SCO's economic dimension. Contributes significantly to regional economic development.
- India has used the SCO platform to promote its cultural interests. For example, India has hosted a number of SCO cultural events and festivals.

Conclusion

India considers the SCO as an important regional group to promotes cooperation in various fields based **on universally recognized international norms, good governance, rule of law, openness, transparency and equality**. Hence, the need for all members to stick to the principles in the charter and abide by its principles

Q10. Indian diaspora has scaled new heights in the West. Describe its economic and political benefits for India.

Introduction

- Discuss about the Indian Diaspora, its data status in west and other parts of the world.

Body

- Substantiate with examples how Indian Diaspora scaling new heights.
- Discuss its significance and challenges.

Conclusion

- Conclusion.

Introduction

According to the World Migration Report, 2022, India has the largest diaspora in the world. This diaspora acts as a vital strategic instrument and channel of communication to further India's foreign policy goals and promote soft power of the country.

Body

Indian diaspora scaling new heights

- Tech CEOs, driving Silicon Valley.
- E.g. Sundar Pichai (CEO of Alphabet inc and its subsidiary Google)
- Political heads.
- E.g. Kamala Harris (Vice President of USA), Rishi Sunak (PM of UK)
- Investors, CEOs.
- E.g. Vinod Khosla, Indra Nooyi
- Heading global institutions.
- E.g. Ajay Banga, World Bank

Benefits

Economic benefits

- The Indian diaspora in the West sends substantial remittances. These remittances provide a crucial source of foreign exchange.
- E.g. In 2020, India received over \$83 billion in remittances, making it the highest recipient of remittances globally.
- Indian expatriates in the West often invest in Indian businesses, startups, and real estate.
- E.g. Prominent Indian-origin entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley like Vinod Khosla have played pivotal roles in funding and mentoring Indian startups.
- The proliferation of Indian culture and values across the globe drives the tourism industry.
- E.g. Naatu-Naatu, the oscar-winning song from India,, Bollywood, Yoga.

Indian diaspora is expected to guide the policy-makers in the field of the Artificial Intelligence-driven industry which will create high-value jobs.

They facilitate the flow of commercial & business ideas and technologies into India.

Political benefits

- They lobby for favorable terms regarding India's interests.
- E.g. To facilitate INDO-US Civil Nuclear Deal.
- E.g: The U.S.-India Political Action Committee (USINPAC) and the Indian American Community Foundation (IACF) are influential advocacy groups that work to strengthen U.S.-India relations.
- Many Indians are serving as high officials in different countries. They may support Indian interests on global issues like Climate Change, Trade, Security, Terrorism etc.
- E.g. Indian origin leaders like Rishi Sunak, Kamla Harris etc. They affect popular attitudes and policies of the host countries.
- Indian expatriates in the West actively promote Indian culture, traditions, and arts, enhancing India's soft power and global reputation. Can help resolve long-standing bilateral issues.
- E.g. To ease out H1B visa norms, IND-UK FTA

Conclusion

In summary, the Indian diaspora in the West plays a pivotal role in advancing India's economic and political interests. Their contributions have a significant impact on India's growth, development, and standing on the global stage.

Q19. 'The expansion and strengthening of NATO and a stronger US-Europe strategic partnership works well for India.' What is your opinion about this statement? Give reasons and examples to support your answer.

Introduction

- Introduce with brief history on NATO.

Body

- Write Some specific examples of the potential benefits and risks of a stronger NATO and US-Europe strategic partnership for India.

Conclusion

- Conclude with India needs to adopt a well-balanced and practical approach.

Introduction

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an intergovernmental military alliance comprising **31 member states**, including 29 European nations and two from North America. Established in 1949 with the signing of the Washington Treaty, NATO is a security alliance whose primary goal is safeguarding the independence and security of its member countries through both political and military means.

Body

Here are some specific examples of the potential benefits and risks of a stronger NATO and US-Europe strategic partnership for India:

Potential benefits

- **Deterrence of aggression:** A stronger NATO and US-Europe partnership can help to deter aggression against India's interests in the region. A stronger US-Europe partnership can help to counter the growing influence of China and Russia in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Increased cooperation on security issues:** There will be increase in cooperation on security issues, such as counterterrorism, maritime security, and cybersecurity. This cooperation can help to improve India's security posture and make the region more stable.
- **Economic Ties:** A strong US-Europe partnership fosters economic stability and growth in these regions. India, as a growing economic power, benefits from stable trading partners. **The EU-India Strategic Partnership, initiated in 2004,** highlights the growing ties between India and Europe, reflecting shared interests in trade, security, and climate action.
- **Defense and Technology Transfer:** Closer ties between India and NATO members, particularly the US and European nations, can lead to increased defense collaboration and technology transfers. **India has participated in joint military exercises with NATO members, such as the US, UK, and France.**
- **Diplomatic Leverage:** India can leverage its relationships with NATO and European nations to address regional security concerns, such as those related to Afghanistan, Iran, or the Indo-Pacific.

Potential risks

- **Increased tensions with China and Russia:** The expansion of NATO and the strengthening of the US-Europe strategic partnership could be seen as a threat by China and Russia. This could lead to increased tensions and instability in the region.

- **Strategic Alignment:** NATO's policies and actions may not always align with India's strategic interests, especially in regions like Afghanistan, where NATO has been involved in military operations that India may view as counterproductive.
- **Global Power Dynamics:** NATO's relationship with major global powers like the United States can have implications for India's strategic autonomy and its role in a multipolar world. India must navigate these dynamics judiciously.
- **Global Commitments:** While NATO's primary focus is on the Euro-Atlantic region, its global outreach may entail commitments and interventions in areas that India views as sensitive. India must assess the implications of NATO's global activities on its own foreign policy objectives.

Way forward

- **Multilateral Forums:** Actively participate in multilateral forums where India can engage with NATO members and discuss common challenges, fostering cooperation on a wide range of global issues.
- **Track II Diplomacy:** Promote Track II diplomacy, involving non-governmental experts and think tanks, to facilitate dialogue and offer policy recommendations on managing potential challenges arising from NATO activities.
- **Strengthen Regional Alliances:** Enhance strategic partnerships with countries in India's neighborhood, such as ASEAN nations, to bolster regional stability and security.
- **Soft Power:** Leverage India's soft power, cultural diplomacy, and economic engagement to build goodwill and foster positive relations with NATO member countries and the international community.

Conclusion

While the expansion and reinforcement of NATO, along with a more robust U.S.-Europe partnership, may offer certain advantages for India, **it also brings forth potential challenges. India needs to adopt a well-balanced and practical approach**, diversify its alliances, and prioritize its regional security and economic development to adeptly navigate the changing geopolitical dynamics.

Q20. 'Sea is an important Component of the Cosmos'. Discuss in light of the above statement the role of IMO (International maritime organization) in protecting environment and enhanced maritime security.

Introduction

- Introduce with giving brief about IMO.

Body

- Write IMO's role in protecting the environment and enhancing maritime security.
- Highlight its limitation and way forward.

Conclusion

- Conclude with IMO ensures that our actions on Earth's oceans have a positive impact.

Introduction

The sea is an important component of the cosmos because it covers over 70% of the Earth's surface and plays a vital role in regulating the global climate, supporting marine biodiversity, and providing food and transportation for billions of people. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is responsible for regulating shipping and protecting the marine environment. **The IMO was founded in 1948 and has 175 member states.**

Body

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) plays a pivotal role in protecting the environment and enhancing maritime security. Here's how:

1. Environmental Protection:

- **Pollution Control:** The IMO has been at the forefront of efforts to combat marine pollution, especially from shipping activities. It has developed conventions like **MARPOL** (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships) to regulate the discharge of pollutants into the sea.
- **Ballast Water Management:** The IMO has established guidelines and regulations for the management of ballast water, which can transfer invasive species between ecosystems, disrupting marine biodiversity.
- **Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Recognizing the shipping industry's contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, the IMO has adopted measures like the **International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC)** Code to reduce emissions and promote energy efficiency in maritime transport.
- **Protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems:** The IMO has implemented measures to safeguard vulnerable marine ecosystems, particularly in the high seas, by regulating bottom trawling and other harmful fishing practices.

2. Maritime Security:




- **Piracy and Armed Robbery:** The IMO has collaborated with international organizations and member states to address piracy and armed robbery at sea, promoting the safety of seafarers and secure navigation through high-risk areas.
- **Maritime Cybersecurity:** Recognizing the growing threats in the digital domain, the IMO has taken steps to enhance maritime cybersecurity and protect critical maritime infrastructure from cyberattacks.
- **Ship Security:** The IMO's **International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code)** sets out measures to enhance the security of ships and port facilities, reducing the risk of terrorism and unauthorized access to vessels.
- **Search and Rescue Coordination:** The IMO facilitates international cooperation in search and rescue operations, ensuring that vessels in distress receive timely assistance and promoting safety at sea.
- **Safety Standards:** The IMO sets safety standards for vessels, navigational equipment, and crew competence, reducing the risk of accidents and enhancing maritime security by preventing accidents and oil spills.

Limitations

- **Enforcement Challenges:** The IMO's effectiveness relies on member states' willingness to enforce regulations, which can vary widely, leading to uneven compliance and enforcement.
- **Lack of Universal Participation:** Not all countries are IMO members, and some regions remain outside its regulatory purview, leaving gaps in global maritime governance.
- **Slow Regulatory Process:** The process of adopting new regulations within the IMO can be slow, hindering the organization's ability to respond swiftly to emerging maritime challenges.

Way Forward

- **Enhanced Enforcement:** Strengthen mechanisms to ensure consistent enforcement of IMO regulations globally, possibly through increased cooperation and coordination among member states.
- **Broadened Membership:** Encourage more nations, especially those with significant maritime interests, to become IMO members, fostering a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to maritime governance.
- **Streamlined Regulatory Process:** Expedite the development and implementation of regulations to address emerging challenges, such as those related to climate change and digitalization, in a more timely and agile manner.

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