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# International Relations (2-minute series)

*April 2021- August 2021*

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**Note:**

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## 1. Soft Power

- The term soft power was coined by the American political scientist Joseph Nye in the late 1980s, in the context of the end of the Cold War.
- He defined it as the ability to get what you want through attraction rather than coercion or payments.
- It arises from the attractiveness of a country's culture, political ideals, and policies.
- It represents a more subtle form of power.
- It is defined as a persuasive approach to international political relations, involving the use of a nation's cultural, historical and diplomatic influence.

As we think of power in the 21st century, we want to get away from the idea that power's always zero sum — my gain is your loss and vice versa. Power can also be positive sum, where your gain can be my gain.

— Joseph Nye —

AZ QUOTES

- It is a form of power that has the ability to attract and co-opt rather than coerce, use force, or provide payment as a means of persuasion.
- Soft Power is the ability of a state to indirectly convince others to desire its goals and vision.
- Nye further explains that a nation's Soft Power is based on the use of three resources, namely
  - ✓ Its culture (in places where it is attractive to others)
  - ✓ Its political values (when it lives up to them at home and abroad)
  - ✓ Its foreign policies (where others see them as legitimate and having moral authority)

### Historically

- Distinguished personages like Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, literature, music, dance, software industry, Ayurveda, etc., produce an extraordinary array of soft power assets that portray the attractiveness of India to the foreign populace.
- The importance of respect, harmony and fraternity are the essences that Indians are recognized for, with Ashoka, Buddha and Gandhi standing as principal representatives.
- Mythological epics such as Mahabharata and Ramayana are compared with the great Greek writings like Odyssey and Iliad.
- India's global representation is rooted in the idea of 'unity in diversity', contemplative of the wide collection of cultures and civilizations that remains to attract many across the world.
- India dedicated to gaining internationally through commerce and statecraft, apart from "soft" power.
- Upanishads delivered the notion of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family.) to the world and to India.

- The Gandhian concepts of non-violence, Nehru's Five Postulates of Panchsheel (Peaceful Coexistence) and the globally supported Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) during the cold war made an important actor in global associations which we derived from the times of Buddha and Ashoka.

## Contemporary

### Vaccine Maitri

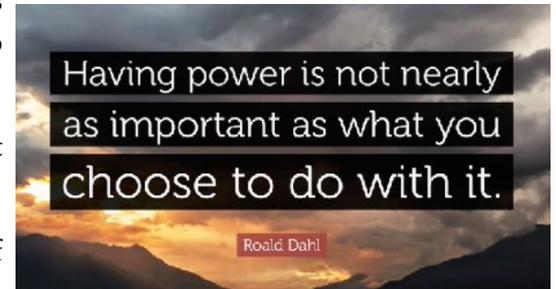
- Days after it began vaccinating its own population against the novel coronavirus, India has begun dispatching millions of doses of its indigenously manufactured COVID-19 vaccines to its South Asian neighbours and key partner countries further afield.
- Brazil's President thanked India by saying "dhanyavaad" for supplying the "sanjeevni booti" (the vaccine) against the coronavirus to the South American country, which has reported the second-highest death toll from the Covid-19 disease in the world, In a tweet
- The Brazilian President said that it was an honour to have India as a "great partner" against the "global obstacle."
- equipment, respirators, and medicines to other countries to help them fight the COVID-19 pandemic, India is now reaching out to them with "vaccine diplomacy."
- In keeping with its "Neighborhood First" initiative, the first consignments of the vaccines have gone to its immediate neighbors, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, and Nepal, and to key Indian Ocean partners, Mauritius and Seychelles.
- Sri Lanka will begin receiving vaccine consignments from January 27 and Afghanistan will do so after it has completed regulatory clearance procedures.
- In addition to the vaccine grant assistance to its neighbors, India has also set in motion commercial supply of vaccines to several countries, including Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Brazil, and Morocco.
- India is one of the largest manufacturers of vaccines in the world; it supplies around 60 percent of the global requirement of DPT, BCG, and measles vaccines. Vaccine Maitri will add to its credibility as a reliable vaccine producer.
- New Delhi is hoping that by earning public goodwill and helping neighbouring governments at a time when they are battling serious public health crises, Vaccine Maitri will enable India to erode Chinese influence in South Asia.
- Ultimately, the soft power quotient of a country is not about the effectiveness or otherwise of government propaganda.
- It's about perception, of how others inherently see you.



- Civilisations are judged not only by artefact, merchandise or arsenal, but by what they stand for, the spirit that animates them

## 2. Hard Power

- The term hard power describes a nation or political body's ability to use economic incentives or military strength to influence other actors' behaviours.
- It relies on a measure of power propounded by the realist school in international relations theory.
- In the realist school, power is linked with the possession of certain tangible resources, including population, territory, natural resources, economic and military strength, among others.
- Hard power is defined by the use of such resources to spur the behaviour of other entities.



### Historically

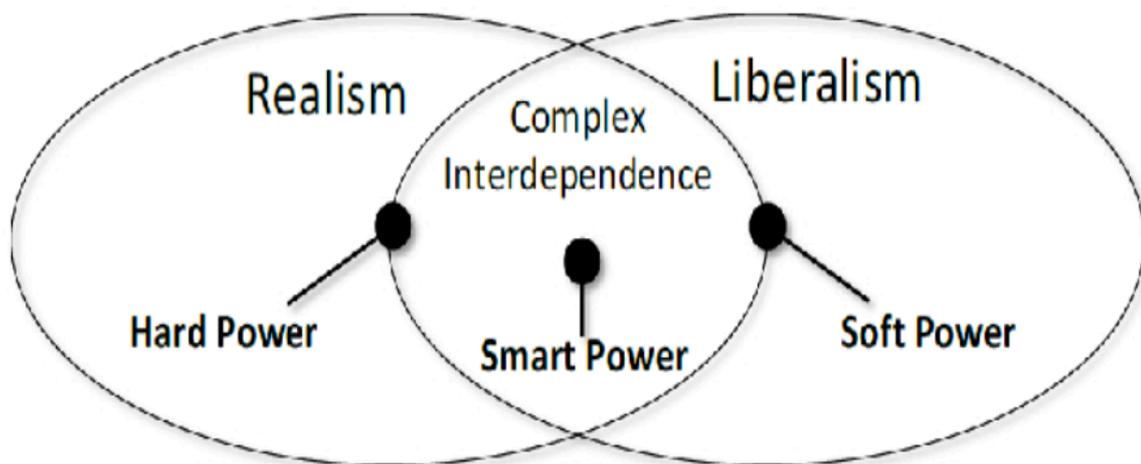
- Machiavelli "Prince": The principal foundations of all states are good laws and good armies.
- Hobbes in the Leviathan expands the measures of power by adding the ability to control not just armed forces, but also economic and financial forces.
- Hans Morgenthau emphasizes the use of coercive force in enumerating political power
- Henry Kissinger suggests that "what is possible for a state depends on its resources, geographic position and determination, and on the resources, determination and domestic structure of other states."
- Joseph Nye, identifies hard power as "the ability to use the carrots and sticks of economic and military might to make others follow your will."
- Hard power strategies include a wide range of measures geared toward coercing or threatening other entities into compliance.
- These measures might include the use of "sticks," such as the threat of military assault or the implementation of an economic embargo; they might also include the use of "carrots," such as the promise of military protection or the reduction of trade barriers.
- Power tactics : military intervention, economic sanctions, and coercive diplomacy.
- Examples:
  - ✓ The 1900 invasion of China by the 8 Country Alliance in order to quell the Boxer Rebellion
  - ✓ The 1939 invasion of Poland by Germany that triggered the second World War
  - ✓ The 1979 invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union, an attempt to prop up Afghanistan's Marxist government
  - ✓ The 2003 invasion of Iraq by the U.S. over concerns about Iraq's weapons capabilities.
  - ✓ The latest one is Israel - Palestine conflict
- Military force, however, is not the only coercive measure in a state's arsenal.

- The application of economic pressure can be deployed for similar ends.
- U.S. trade embargoes on countries such as Cuba, Iran, and Iraq in the latter half of the 20th century
- The 1995 Iran Sanctions Act, in response to Iran’s nuclear program and its alleged funding of organizations such as Hezbollah, Hamas, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.
- The sanctions were designed to limit investment in Iran’s oil fields and infrastructure. Thus, by impeding the development of a key sector of Iran’s economy— petroleum—the U.S. hoped to discourage Iran from engaging in any unfriendly activity.
- This strategy of economic and military combined together is described by Alexander George, as “coercive diplomacy” –involves backing one’s demands of an adversary “with a threat of punishment for noncompliance that he will consider credible and potent enough to persuade him to comply with the demand.”

<b>Hard Power</b>	<b>Soft Power</b>
Ability to change others' position by force or inducement	Ability to shape preferences of others by attraction
Military and economic power	Cultural Power
Coercion, force	Co-option, Influence
Absolute	Relative, context based
Tangible, easy to measure, predictable to certain degree	Intangible, hard to measure, unpredictable
Ownership specified	Unspecified, multiple sources
controlled by State or organizations	Mostly non-state actors, uncontrollable
External, action, push.	Internal, reaction/ response, pull
Direct, short-term, immediate effect	Indirect, long-term, delayed effect
Manifested in foreign policies	Communicated via nation branding

	<b>Long Term</b>	<b>Short Term</b>
<b>Hard Power</b>	Ex. sanctions, trade conditionality, military posturing, coercive diplomacy, refusal of cooperation, rhetoric of distrust, indirect coercion	Ex. sanctions, boycott, military invasion, cut-off of energy supply, embassy closings, severing diplomatic ties, leaking information, issuing threats through media or high-level speech, freezing bank accounts
<b>Soft Power</b>	Ex. fostering legitimate domestic institutions, transparency, strong humanitarian intervention capabilities, public diplomacy, aid, sharing of best practices, promoting domestic culture & minority rights	Ex. media rhetoric, high-level political speech, aid program, diplomatic summit, high-level visit to foreign country, new cooperative treaties, promoting foreign interests domestically

- While the use of hard power may serve to induce compliance, it also presents some glaring shortcomings with regard to its wielder's legitimacy and credibility.
- Hard power strategies that do not take into account a country's international image may have serious consequences.
- If a country's credibility abroad deteriorates, attitudes of mistrust tend to grow while international cooperation diminishes, such that the country's capacity to obtain its objectives is damaged.
- The consequences of American reliance on hard power in removing Saddam Hussein from power and the handling of the subsequent crisis in Iraq provide an unfortunate example. Polling data reveal growing anti-
- Americanism and disillusionment with American foreign policy.
- Rather than relying solely on the coercive use of military and economic might, a state would attempt to garner acquiescence through the attractiveness of its culture and ideology or through the proliferation of its norms and values.
- It is this ability to set the agenda in world politics, to offer a sought-after example in terms of values or institutions on the international stage, that Joseph Nye calls indirect or soft power.
- Ultimately, however, Nye and other scholars suggest that a state's success at achieving its goals rests not on the exclusive use of either hard or soft power. For these thinkers, success depends upon a combination of both – what has been deemed “smart power.”



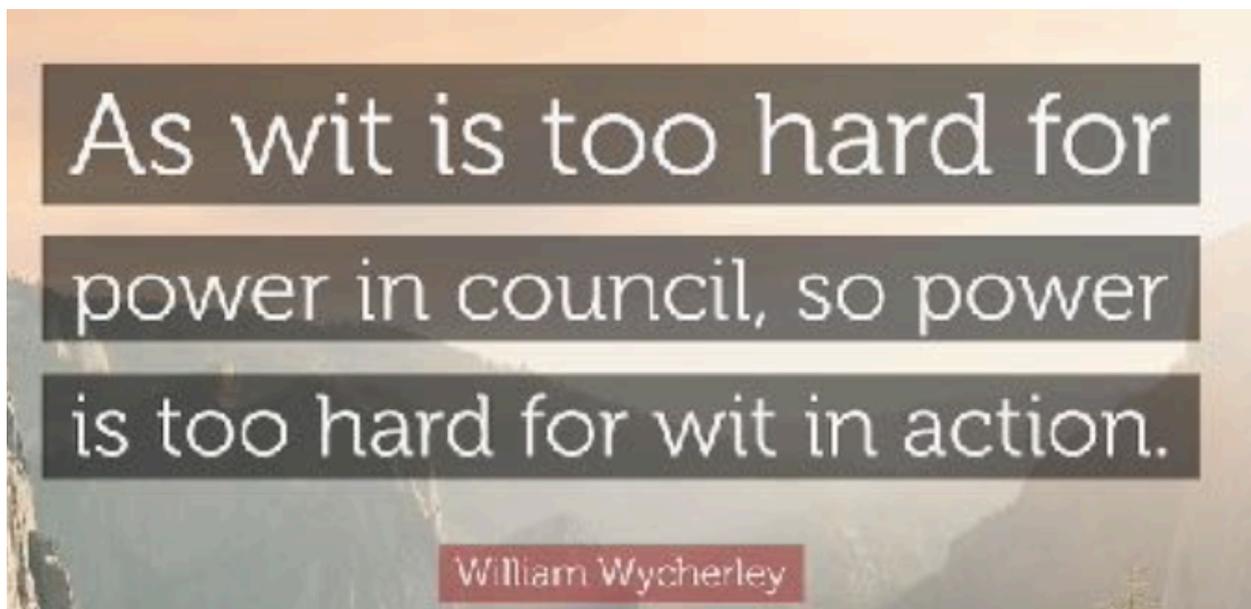
Scheme 1. Position of powers

Source: Made by the author

# SOFT POWER vs HARD POWER

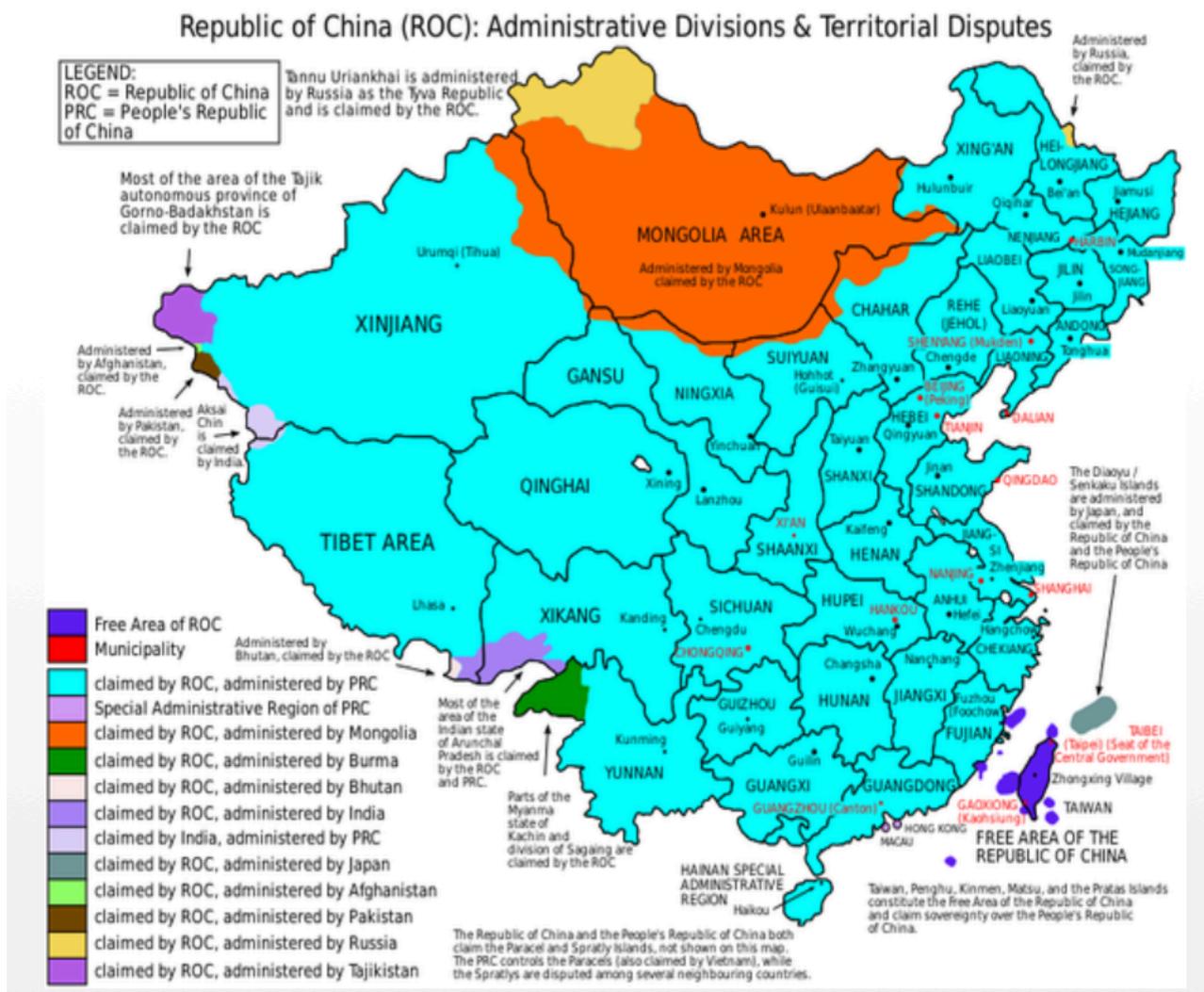
OPTIMA ZONE:	#	TYPE OF POWER:	CHARACTERISTIC:	EFFECTIVENESS:
GOLDZONE	7	SOFT POWER	Visionary, Aspirational.	Most effective.
BLUEZONE	6		Passion, Creativity, Influence.	
GREENZONE	5		Persuade, Encourage, Empower.	
YELLOWZONE	4	HARD POWER	Authoritarianism, Threat of Force, Autocracy, Coercion, Punishment & Reward.	Last Resort. To be used only when all else fails.
ORANGEZONE	3	POWERLESS	When people are afraid, they seek Authoritarian Leaders who wield HARD POWER.	Least effective.
REDZONE	2		Threats to security or from social change make people fearful.	
BROWNZONE	1		These people are in denial and are apathetic to change and threats.	

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### 3. Salami Slicing

- This was coined by Hungarian communist politician Matyas Rakosi during 1940s to describe his strategy to the non-Communist parties by "cutting them off like slices of salami."
- Salami slicing is also known as 'cabbage strategy' in military parlance
- In military parlance, the term salami slicing is described as a strategy that involves divide and conquer process of threats and alliances to overcome opposition and acquire new territories.
- Salami slicing as a series of many small actions, often performed by clandestine means, that as an accumulated whole produces a much larger action or result that would be difficult or unlawful to perform all at once. The term is typically used pejoratively.
- In the context of China, salami slicing denotes its strategy of territorial expansion in the South China Sea and the Himalayan regions.
- Many believe that Doklam standoff was the result of China's salami slicing tactics in the Himalayas.



- China is the only country which has been expanding its territorial jurisdiction post-World War II at the expense of its neighbours.
- This expansion has taken place in both territorial and maritime regions.
- China follows a particular pattern in acquiring a territory in its neighbourhood.
- China first stakes claim on a territory and keeps repeating its claim at all platforms and on all possible occasions.
- It launches a propaganda disputing the claim of the other party to such an extent that the territory in question is recognised as a dispute between China and the other country.
- In resolving the dispute, China uses its military and diplomatic might to gain a part of it.
- This strategy of territorial expansion by China is referred to as salami slicing, a term which is a modification of phrase, salami tactics.
- Along the India-China borders, Beijing stakes claim on the 90,000 sq km of Arunachal Pradesh calling it the South Tibet.
- China also claims small territories in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir as its own.
- China has already acquired about 6,000 sq km area north of Karakoram in Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan.
- China is eyeing Doklam plateau as it would give it an advantage in keeping an eye over the Silliguri corridor or 'Chicken's Neck' that connects northeast India with rest of the country.

## 4. Cornwall Consensus

### G7

- The Group of 7 (G7) is an informal group of seven countries – the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom, the heads of which hold an annual summit with and other invitees.
- The G7 draws its roots from a meeting between the current G7 members, excluding Canada, that took place in 1975.
- After this first summit, the countries agreed to meet annually and a year later, Canada was invited into the group which marked the official formation of the G7 as we know it.
- The presidency of G7 meetings is held by each of the seven countries in turn, each year.
- The country holding the presidency is responsible for organising and hosting the meeting.
- The UK holds the G7 presidency for 2021 and has organised the conference at the Carbis Bay Hotel in Cornwall.
- This year, India, South Korea and Australia have been invited to attend the G7 summit as participating guests.

### Agenda

- The G7 summit provides a forum for member countries to discuss shared values and concerns.



- While it initially focused on international economic policy, in the 1980s, the G7 extended its mandate to include issues related to foreign policy and security as well.
- In recent years, G7 leaders have met to formulate common responses to challenges encompassing counterterrorism, development, education, health, human rights and climate change.

### Washington Consensus

- The Washington Consensus is a set of ten economic policy prescriptions considered to constitute the "standard" reform package promoted for crisis-wracked developing countries by Washington, D.C.-based institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and United States Department of the Treasury.
- The prescriptions encompassed free-market promoting policies in such areas as macroeconomic stabilization, economic opening with respect to both trade and investment, and the expansion of market forces within the domestic economy.
- Three decades ago, the British economist John Williamson coined the phrase "Washington consensus" to describe a collection of free-market, pro-globalisation ideas that American leaders (among others) were promoting around the world.
- Third World countries were affected by these woes. However, perhaps the most significant victim of the Washington Consensus was "post-Soviet" Russia in the 1990s. As early as the beginning of the 2000s, this concept was virtually abandoned by its authors.
- Meanwhile, the process of China's transformation into a new global power (previously predicted only by experts) in the early 2000s should also come to the political surface, that is, to the public eye. Not only because of its own impressive economic achievements, but also because of the increasing scale of economic aid to the same Third World countries.

## The “Cornwall consensus”

- This is the title of an advisory memo circulated ahead of the G7 leaders meeting in Cornwall which is written by a committee of academics and policymakers from each of the seven countries, it sets out an “ambitious agenda to build forward better from the pandemic”.

## Outcomes

- G7 agreed in principle upon global tax reforms.
  - ✓ The agreement covers two pillars: the first requiring MNCs to pay taxes in countries where they operate and not just where they have their headquarters; and the second pillar commits to a global minimum corporate tax of at least 15 percent on a country-by- country basis.
  - ✓ This proposal will be put forth for discussion in the G20 meeting in Venice in July, and while the details of the agreement would be key, a broader assessment suggests that this could boost tax revenues significantly across major economies, including in India.
- Build Back Better World: G7 partners agreed to launch the bold new global infrastructure initiative Build Back Better World (B3W), a values-driven, high-standard, and transparent infrastructure partnership led by major democracies to help narrow the US\$40+ trillion infrastructure need in the developing world, which has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Through B3W, the G7 and other like-minded partners will coordinate in mobilizing private-sector capital in four areas of focus – climate, health and health security, digital technology, and gender equity and equality – with catalytic investments from respective development finance institutions.
- Vaccines
  - ✓ The G7 pledged over the next 12 months to secure a further 1 bn vaccine doses either through donating surplus supplies or providing further finance to Covax, the UN-backed scheme charged with distributing vaccines to low- and middle-income countries.
  - ✓ The main new pledges came from the US, UK and Germany.
  - ✓ The communique also set out plans to reduce road blocks to production in Africa and on the controversial issue of enforced temporary waivers of patents said they will support manufacturing in low income countries.
  - ✓ They said they would engage constructively on the issue of intellectual property waivers in discussions at the World Trade Organization.
- China
  - ✓ The G7 nations have rallied against China and called them out on human rights violations and trade issues, pinching at some of their most sensitive affairs.
  - ✓ Apart from this, the united front has also demanded a high degree of autonomy for Hong Kong and a peaceful resolution of cross- Strait issues along with a full investigation of the origins of the coronavirus in the country.
  - ✓ In response, China has asserted that the allegations are baseless, and instead accused the G7 of “political manipulation”.
- Climate and environment:

- ✓ Recommitment to the Paris Agreement
- ✓ Zero by 50 : At the Summit, the G7 leaders collectively pledged to increase their carbon emission reduction targets. The new goal is to collectively cut emissions by half by 2030 based on 2010 levels.
- ✓ Catalyse technology towards net zero: It has been made mandatory for big businesses to disclose the climate impacts of their operations by 2022; to protect 30% of their country's land and sea by 2030, in line with scientific advice; and to stop funding coal generation around the world by year's end, an important step to phase out the world's dirtiest fossil fuel.
- ✓ Cold on coal
  - ❖ The G7 acknowledged the impact of coal on the environment and its harmful contributions to global carbon emissions.
  - ❖ To this end, the leaders agreed towards a faster phasing away of coal plants. As a more immediate measure, by the end of 2021, their governments will end direct support for coal plants

## 5. New Afghan Peace Process

### What has happened?

- February marks exactly one year since the US announced an agreement
- It was a big agreement with the Taliban (the same group that is responsible for thousands of deaths over the last few years including many Afghan security forces)
- It opened the way for talk with the insurgent group between them and the representative in Kabul

### Salient features of the deal

- Release of Taliban prisoners by Ghani government
- Peace talk between the two
- A ceasefire for the Taliban
- To cut off the link with al-Qaeda and other international terrorist groups
- A complete pull out of US troops according to the certain timeline (1 May 2021)

### what has actually happened?

- While the Ghani government has kept its side of the bargain, the other side has not done the same
- It has released more than 5000 fighters
- Even many of them came back to the fighting
- Ghani government has also sent its delegation for talks with the Taliban at Qatar
- US has started pulling down and even shut down its bases

### Biden Afghan peace process

- It has kept open the possibility that the 2500 odd US troops might stay for a while
- Washington pressed Taliban to accept an immediate agreement to reduce violence for 90 days to provide the space for peace initiative.

- Us representative had handed over a set of written peace proposal to both Kabul and Taliban.
- Us asked Turkey to convene a meeting of the government In Kabul and Taliban to finalise a peace settlement.
- UN to convene a meeting of foreign ministers from International players
- new quad group
- With US, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan(very unreliable partner)
- Not indo pacific quad
- Enhancing regional connectivity
- Regional support for Afghanistan peace process and post settlement

## 6. Look East Polity vs Act East Polity

- It is a policy initiative to enhance economic relation and enhance historical and cultural relations of India with nations of East and South East Asia.
- These countries mainly include Japan, Australia and south-East countries.
- After integration of USSR in 1990, India had to shift its focus on east and south-east regions.
- It was initiated during the time of the PM Narsimhar Rao in 1991 and formally came into action in 1993.
- It also wanted to tackle strategic influence of China

### Act East Policy

- It is a reinforced version of "Look East policy"
- This Policy has been launched by the Modi government in East Asia Summit in Myanmar in the year 2014.
- According to this, relation with East Asian nations are a foreign policy priority of India.
- This policy contains previous economic as well as new security angle.
- This policy also aims towards the enhanced connectivity towards the
- North eastern regions.
- It also wanted to include Pacific Island nations, South Korea and Mangolia.

### North Eastern States

- Covers 8% of India geographical area
- Covers 4 percent population
- Was neglected till now.

## 7. Look west Policy

### Historical Relations

- For decades, India was a passive player in West Asia being the beneficiary of multiple factors.
- During cold war India maintained close cooperation relations with both Saudi Arabia and IRAn.( 2 arch rivals) After cw, this has expanded to accommodate 3 key pillars - Iran, Saudi arabia and Israel.

### Introduction

- This policy was adopted by Government of India in 2005.
- Look west policy deals with gulf countries, Iran, Israel

### Why West Asia matters?

- India's 60% oil comes from West Asia.Around 10 million, Indian works in West Asia
- Out of 80 billion dollar remittances,56% comes from west Asia.
- UAE is the third largest trade partner after USA and China
- India can attract significant amount of capital from West Asia.

### Why India ignored this countries earlier?

- These countries were pro-Pakistan .
- They have contributed in favour of PAK in 1965 and 1971 Indo- Pak wars.
- Saudi Arabi funded madrasa in Pakistan and promoted Wahhabi Islam.

### Main features

- Secular and non aligned policy
- Diplomacy at various level - G2G, B2B, P2P
- Maritime diplomacy - due to energy and economic security

### Concerns / Challenges

- With China's expanding footprint in the Indian Ocean Region, India must strengthen security ties with littoral 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
- Instability in the region due to ISIS Growing rivalry between the Sunni Arabs and Shia Iran
- Ideological, political and religious divisions in India over the Middle East have long complicated Delhi's thinking of the region.

## 8. Connect Central Asia Policy

### Introduction

- When - 2012
- Whom- The then External affairs minister E Ahmed
- Track 2 diplomacy
- political, security, economic and cultural connections
- Central Asia consists of five nations: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan
- Central Asian region is considered to be the part of **India's "extended neighbourhood"**.
- Central Asia is strategically positioned as an **access point between Europe and Asia**.
- These countries gained independence in 1990 from USSR

### Main Pillars of policy

- recognized by 4 C
- Culture
- Commerce
- Connectivity
- Consulate
- India declared that it will go for greater engagement in education, tele communication, food security, e-network etc.

### Reinvigoration of Policy

- India's 'Connect Central Asia Policy' was reinforced in 2015, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Indian head of state to visit all five nations between July 6 and 13.
- High Octane diplomacy
- Since then there has been significant progress in cooperation, particularly in the fields of defence, energy and connectivity
- This renewed focus on the region can be attributed to the changing geopolitics of the region, particularly the formation of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the external security threats to the region.

### Significance of Central Asia for India

- offers **extensive potential for trade, investment, and growth**.

- The region is richly endowed with commodities such as **crude oil, natural gas, cotton, gold, copper, aluminium, and iron.**
- The increasing importance of the region's oil and gas resources has generated new rivalries among external powers.
- Energy security - **uranium and oil and gas.**
  - ✓ In pursuance of this India is negotiating on **TAPI pipeline.**
  - ✓ India signed a **civil nuclear deal with Kazakhstan.**

## Conclusion

- Connect Central Asia policy shouldn't just remain on paper but it should be realized in practice.
- Connect Central Asia policy is a holistic policy which is not just about energy, oil, and natural resources but about cooperating in every sphere, including politics, culture, and defense.
- This policy will be a game changer in times to come. Central Asian regional dynamics will become very interesting with India's involvement in the region in the coming years.