

EDITORIAL OF THE DAY MONDAY, July 15, 2019

A VASTLY ALTERED SITUATION

The past cannot be a guide to the future

GS PAPER II:-Bilateral , regional and global groupings and agreements involving India

CONTEXT	With the coming of the new government, it hardly carries an assurance that India can pursue the same policies as before with the world powers. There are a host of issues that exist which need to be reconciled before we can achieve what we aspire for.
INDIA'S APPROACH IN THE PAST	In the past, we did manage a shift from nonalignment to multi-alignment, which help us to improve our relations with the United States without jeopardizing our long-term relationship with Russia, China, all the while maintaining our strategic independence.
PRESENT SITUATION	The global situation that made all this possible has altered. Rivalries among nations have intensified, several more countries today profess support for their kind of liberalism, including Russia and China. At the other end, western democracy appears far less liberal today.
WHERE SHOULD BE THE PRIORITIES	✓ South Asia needs close attention as this region is one of the most disturbed region of the world. ✓ India-Pakistan relationship are at its lowest point they need more focus and attention. ✓ India also needs a more confident and coordinated approach in handling neighbourhood organisations including -SAARC, BIMSTEC the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Forum for Regional Cooperation the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal Initiative and IORA ✓ This strategy should preferably be in tandem with bilateralism, as India's bilateral relations comes with significant advantages.
LACK IN INDIA FOREIGN POLICIES	✓ India has no role in Afghan affairs and is also excluded from current talks involving the Taliban, the Afghan government, Pakistan, the U.S. and even Russia and China. ✓ India might have recouped its position more recently in the Maldives, but its position in Nepal and Sri Lanka remains tenuous. In West Asia again, India is no longer a player to reckon with. ✓ China is the major challenge that India has to contend with. ✓ India must ensure that it does not become a party to the conflicts and rivalries between the U.S. and a rising China.

EDITORIAL OF THE DAY

MONDAY, July 15, 2019

	✓ Closer relations with the U.S. also carries the risk of aggravating tensions between India and China ✓ The trade war between the U.S. and China which is becoming a technology war. ✓ Brexit and the European Union's internal priorities and preoccupations. ✓ Erosion of U.S.–Russia arms control agreements and the likelihood of a new arms race covering nuclear, space and cyber domains. ✓ The U.S.'s withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and growing tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran
WORK ON ECONOMY	✓ None of this would, however, be possible unless India pays greater heed to its economy. ✓ India's ambition to become a \$5–trillion economy by 2024–25, but the reality today is that the economy appears to be in a state of decline. Jobs, specially skilled jobs, are not available in sufficient numbers and this should be a matter for concern. ✓ The looming challenge for India in the coming five years, therefore, would be how to build a strong economic foundation.
CONCLUSION	✓ India needs to devise a policy that does not leave it isolated in the region. ✓ A major challenge for India will hence be how to overcome our current inadequacies in the realm of disruptive technologies rather than remaining confined to the purely military domain. ✓ The new challenges require domestic decisions in terms of expanding the foreign policy establishment. ✓ India needs to ensure far more coordination among the different ministries and agencies than has been the case so far.

QUES:- DISCUSS INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY IN CONTEXT WITH U.S AND CHINA.SUGGEST A WAY FORWARD TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIP WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.