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STUDENT NOTE

Dear Students,

To support you, we have distilled essential information from VisionIAS Mains 365 resources, renowned for their comprehensive coverage of current affairs.



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The summary of Mains 354 provides a **comprehensive coverage of key developments** in international relations and their impact on India which is relevant for your UPSC Mains answers. It will help you in quick revision.



This summary helps you revise key topics quickly and effectively.



The document is designed in an infographic format, making it easy to replicate in your answers.



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Date	Duration	Medium	Mode	For more information & assistance:
29 AUGUST	15 Months	English & Hindi	Offline & Online	+91 8468022022, +91 9019066066 enquiry@visionias.in

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1. Dynamics Of Changing World Order

1.1 INDIA'S ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

Definition: Economic diplomacy is a foreign policy tool that involves the use of economic instruments in conduct of international relations for serving the country's economic, political, and strategic interests.



Conclusion

5

Economic diplomacy should seek for balance between **competition and cooperation**, **aspirations** and the **achievable**, **and regional and global goals**.

1.2 ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN GEOPOLITICS







1.3 DISASTER DIPLOMACY

Disaster Diplomacy refers to 'a country's efforts to provide aid and support to other countries affected by natural/ man-made disasters or conflicts.



1.4 PARA-DIPLOMACY

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It's foreign policy capacity of non-central governments and their participation, independent of central government, in the international arena.

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Conclusion

7

Para-diplomacy is still in its nascent stage in India. Indian state should overcome their relative passivity in foreign relations.

1.5 INDIA'S STRATEGIC AUTONOMY

Definition: It is defined as the capability to make decisions independent from external pressure, especially from great powers, in the main policy areas.





forward

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1.6 INDIA: THE VOICE OF GLOBAL SOUTH



India has called for 4Rs- Respond, Recognize, Respect and Reform.

1.7 INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



Modalities in India's Development Cooperation Framework

- ightarrow Concessional finance
- Technology sharing
- Capacity building
- Trade wherein **duty-free and quota- free access** to the Indian market is provided.

1.8 SOFT POWER AND CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

Soft power: It is the ability to influence others through appeal and attraction using noncoercive means.

Cultural diplomacy: It is the "exchange of ideas, and other aspects of culture among nations and peoples.



Tools of India's Cultural Diplomacy Yoga: United Nations approved 21 June as International Yoga Day. Indian Cinema: It has huge audiences across the world. India's Values and Tolerance: are seen as largely positive in nature. Indian Cuisine: India with its cultural diversity is home to a fascinating array of Cuisine. Tourism: help in connecting people and culture.

1.9 INDIAN DIASPORA

Diasporas serves as transnational country's brand ambassador living bridges connecting India and world and each one of them is





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2. Regional, And Global Grouping And Agreements Involving India And/Or Affecting India's Interest

2.1 INDIA AND G20

G20 summit theme: "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth, One Family, One Future".



2.2 INDIA-MIDDLE EAST- EUROPE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

IMEC includes rail, ship-to-rail, and road routes across two corridors: East corridor links India to Arabian Gulf; northern connects Gulf to Europe.



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2.3 AU: A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE G20



2.4 EXPANSION OF BRICS

Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates have joined BRICS as full-time permanent members.





influence.

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members.

2.5 INDIA-INDO PACIFIC

of development

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Indo-Pacific as a region **extends from the Eastern shores of Africa to the Western shores of** America.





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2.6 Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)

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2.9 THE COMMONWEALTH



2.10 NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



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3. India And Its Neighbourhood Relations

3.1 INDIA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST POLICY





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3.3 INDIA-CHINA BORDER DISPUTE

Line of Actual Control (LAC) is the dividing line between the two nations. However, border between India and China is not formally demarcated and there is no mutually agreed LAC.







3.4 TRANS-BOUNDARY RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT

Definition: It is defined as the capability to make decisions independent from external pressure, especially from great powers, in the main policy areas.



3.5 INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONS

The religious and cultural ties between India and Nepal are very old and very strong and both should work to accord the relationship the height of the Himalayas-India's PM.









3.6 INDIA-BHUTAN RELATIONS

Prime Minister of India was conferred the **"Order of the Druk Gyalpo", the highest civilian honor** in Bhutan.





3.7 INDIA-AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS UNDER TALIBAN REGIME









3.9 INDIA-SRILANKA MARITIME BORDER

The problem has three interrelated facets: Disagreements over Kachchatheevu island; poaching by Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan waters; and Use of trawlers causing environmental damage.





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3.10 India-Maldives Relations

Maldives opted out of **Colombo Security Conclave annual meeting (2023)**, Maldives signed military pact with China



3.11 South Asia Sub Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC)



🥑 • 4 pillars of SASEC

SASEC Transport Sector Strategy

SASEC Trade Facilitation

SASEC Energy Sector Strategy

SASEC Economic Corridor Development Strategy C• Way Forward

Prioritize border infrastructure

Regional energy cooperation

Strengthen regional value chains



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4.1 Abraham Accords

3 years of signing of the Abraham Accords **{Collective agreement between the United States (US), the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Israel}**





4.2 Israel-Palestine War

Impacts of instability in West Asia





4.3 India-Israel Relations

India-Israel ties are a marriage made in heaven, practised on earth"- Israeli PM





Conclusion

Synergistic convergence of geopolitical interests, democratic normative alignment, and collaborative counter-terrorism efforts fortify India-Israel relations as a robust, dynamic, and resilient strategic partnership

4.4 India-UAE Relations

Bilateral Investment Treaty signed during Indian PM visit to UAE, CEPA signed in 2022 to boost trade to \$100 billion.







Deteriorating regional peace

Rights of emigrant labourers due to Kafala system.

Trade and Market access barriers

4.5 India – Saudi Arabia Relations

Conclusion

The relations with UAE are important for India just not in bilateral spheres but also in India's Extended Neighbourhood and Look West Policy of India

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1st summit-level meeting of the **India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) was held**, >18% of India's crude oil imports are sourced from Saudi Arabia





Bilateral engagements beyond trade and commerce, Labor Welfare, Counterterrorism measures

4.6 India-GCC Relations

GCC is India's **largest block trading partner, with bilateral trade** close to **US\$ 184 Bn** in FY 2022-23.





Conclusion

In recent years, relationships have been witnessing metamorphosis, wherein, growing convergence can bring a paradigm shift in the geostrategic dynamics of the extended neighbourhood.

4.8 India-South Korea Relations

In the golden age of Asia, Korea was one of its lamp-bearers- Rabindranath Tagore in The Lamp of the East

• Bilateral trade \$ 24.4 billion(2023), 'Special Strategic Partnership' in 2015



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4.9 India-Indonesia Relations

In 2024, India and Indonesia commemorated 75 years of diplomatic relations.





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4.11 India-US Relations

India-USA stands at a new dawn in relationship that will not only shape the destiny of our two nations, but also that of the world. Our trusted partnership is like the Sun in this new dawn that will spread light all around. (PM,India)

- Areas of	Cooperation		' Challeng	es
Multilateral and Minilateral: UN, G-20,QUAD, 12U2,	Defence: INDUS-X, LEMOA, COMCASA,BECA	Varied Stance on Russia-Ukraine War,	Defence: Fear of CAATSA sanctions	India's commitment to Non-Alignment
Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies	Global Challenges: India-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership	Israel-Palestine War	Sunctions	
Reviving & Reforming Multilateralism Work with regional institutes: e.g., QUAD, I2U2,etc. Diversification, Decentralization and Democratization of supply chains				

4.12 India-Canada Relations

Canada's assertion of Indian agents involvement in the murder of a pro-Khalistan activist.





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4.13 India-Latin America Relations

LAC (Latin America and Caribbean) accounts for ~3% of India's imports and ranks 8th among India's import sources, Bilateral Trade: US\$ 49 billion (2022)



Conclusion

Latin America will continue to have a role in India's ambition to become a global power, and **also part of the goldilocks zone**' (i.e., a sweet spot between highly regulated and competitive market of USA & Europe and less competitive market of Africa with low purchasing power) for business.

4.14 India-EU Relations

Bilateral trade: **\$135 billion (2022-23)**



Conclusion

India-EU should take their relations beyond "trade lens", recognizing their important geopolitical, strategic convergences



4.15 India-Russia Relations

India-Russia partnership is "subject of attention not because it has changed but because it has not" (MEA)



India-France partnership is "universal" as it goes from the "sea to the space" and beyond.

• Areas of Convergence

Modernise India's Defense: E.g. Rafale purchase **Space Cooperation:** E.g. TRISHNA and Megha-Tropiques satellite **Geo-Strategic:** Counter China, 2023 Roadmap broadened cooperation from IOR to entire Indo-Pacific.

Conclusion

As pivotal middle powers, France and India can leverage their strategic partnership to enhance multilateral engagement, fostering a more balanced multipolar order and advancing India's normative integration with the European Union.



4.17 India-UK Relations

Recently, India and UK launched the **Technology Security Initiative' (TSI)** to elevate the strategic partnership



Conclusion

As India seeks to carve out a new role for itself in the evolving global order as a 'leading power' and the U.K. recalibrates its strategic outlook post-Brexit, **this is a unique moment in India-U.K. ties for "quantum leap" in the relations.**

4.18 India-Italy Relations

Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the **Migration and Mobility Agreement** between India and Italy.



Conclusion

A connection was identified between the Indo-Pacific (wherein India plays a leading role), and the enlarged Mediterranean Sea (where Italy sits at the center of the Sea and acts as a natural bridge towards the Indo-Pacific)



4.19 India-Nordic Relations



4.20 India-Australia Relations

In this complicated world, it is the trust between like-minded partners such as India and Australia that is helping to secure a free, open, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region along with a rules-based international order. (MEA)



Conclusion

India and Australia being prominent players in the Indo-Pacific region are suitably placed to anchor a 'Coalition of Middle Powers' in the Indo-Pacific





4.21 India and Africa Relations

"India's priority is not just Africa; India's priority is Africans – every man, woman and child in Africa" (MEA)



4.22 India-Mauritius Relations



Conclusion

As Mauritius weighs its future policy options, both foreign policy and economic, amidst changing regional geopolitics, it is useful for India to pay attention to these crucial aspects of the nation' concerns and its identity as a SIDS.



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5.2 China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

China and Pakistan entered into six agreements to expedite cooperation under CPEC.







5.3 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

NATO marked 75 years of its formation and Sweden has joined NATO as its 32nd member.



Conclusion

Embracing a comprehensive strategy of innovation, resilience-building, and strategic foresight will help NATO navigate complex geopolitical realities

5.4 AUKUS

AUKUS members are considering **cooperation with Japan on advanced capabilities projects.**





6. Important International Institutions, Agencies, And Fora, Their Structure, Mandate

6.1 Global Institutions in the Changing Times

Major global institutions such as the UN, WTO, IMF, World Bank have been **under scrutiny** for not being able to fulfil their desired objectives.





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6.2 UNSC at a Glance

🥑 • Need for reform in UNSC 🕽

Outdated: no permanent representation from Africa, Latin America, Caribbean.

Imposition of sanctions: encroaches sovereignty.

Veto power: blocks key decisions

India's Contribution in UNSC
Chaired the Taliban and Libya sanctions committees
Formulated Universal Declaration of Human Rights
First country to raise apartheid issue at UN
Largest UN Peace Keeping troops provider



Lack of consensus on the definition of terrorism

Post COVID Global Order

Lack of resources for multilateral diplomacy

6.3 India and UN Peacekeeping at a Glance

Indian Army commemorated the 76th International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers (2024)





Conclusion

Peacekeeping has proven to be one of the most effective tools available to the UN to assist countries to navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace.

6.4 UNHRC at a Glance

India was re-elected to the UNHRC (2022-24) for a 6th term with overwhelming majority.

Significance of UNHRC

Platform for Dialogue among states, **Promote human rights education and learning, Reviewing Human rights record of member states, Encourage Civil Society Participation in** human rights.

Council seats held by countries with human rights concerns.	Procedural reforms (open ballots in Council elections)	Reduce politicization and build consensus
Tendency to vote in blocs Non-binding recommendations	Ensuring National implementation of international human rights obligations	Protecting Human Rights Defenders from Reprisals

Conclusion

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With ongoing reforms, increased member accountability, and collaborative efforts, UNHRC can more effectively promote and protect human rights worldwide, fostering a more just international order.



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6.5 United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

20 years of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

Successes of UNCAC

Providing a **comprehensive framework to combat corruption**.

Near-universal ratification

Its Review Mechanism is triggering concrete **anti-corruption measures**.

Contributed to establishing **new institutions and anti-corruption policies**



6.6 International Criminal Court (ICC)

ICC prosecutor sought arrest warrants for Israel's PM and Hamas leaders for committing crimes against humanity and war crimes.









Subordination of the ICC to the UN Security Council, may potentially lead to political interference.

Violates principles of sovereignty (UNSC's power to bind non-States Parties to the ICC)

🥏 • Why did India not join the Rome Statute?

Chances of **misuse** for political purposes **Exclusion of nuclear weapons** and terrorism from ICC jurisdiction





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