



Date -2 September 2024

"From Peripheral to Pivotal: Strengthening India-South America Relations"

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and topic details of the India-Latin America Relations.

Syllabus mapping:

GS-2: International Relationship- India- South America.

For Prelims:

What are the key agreements and groupings between India and South American countries?

For Mains:

How did the relationship between India and South America evolve, and significance of South America to India and vice versa? What are the measure areas of cooperation, impediments, and ways forward to strengthen the relations among the countries?

Why in the News?

Indian Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ramnath Thakur held a high-level bilateral meeting in New Delhi with Chile's Agriculture Minister Esteban Valenzuela and his delegation. The meeting focused on strengthening agricultural cooperation between India and Chile.

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar co-chaired the 9th India-Brazil Joint Commission meeting with Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira in New Delhi. The meeting addressed several key areas of bilateral cooperation and global issues:





India and South America relations:

Octavio Paz, the esteemed Mexican Nobel Laureate and former Ambassador to India in the 1960s, once remarked, "India did not enter me through my mind but through my senses." This profound observation underscores the sensory allure that both India and Latin America have for each other.

Evolution of India-South America relationship:

Historical Context and Divergence:

Historical Background: When India became a nation-state in 1947, Latin American countries had been independent for over a century. Latin American societies were primarily shaped by European colonization, with African influences in some areas and a relatively minor indigenous presence. In contrast, post-independence India was a South Asian society influenced by British colonial education and cultural integration.

Historical Divergence: Latin American nations were oriented towards Europe and the U.S., while India adopted a policy of non-alignment. This divergence created a polite but noticeable distance between the two regions, despite their mutual fascination with each other's cultures.

Initial Relations: Diplomatic relations between India and Latin America began shortly after India's independence, driven by shared colonial experiences and an absence of direct disputes. Early interactions highlighted common interests but had limited impact.

Current Diplomatic and Economic Relations:

Current Diplomatic Framework: India hosts twenty Latin American and Caribbean embassies and maintains fourteen in the region. India participates in the G20 with Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina, engages with the Community of Latin American States (CELAC), and is involved in various sub-regional forums.

Geopolitical Focus: Despite India's growing global influence in the 21st century, Latin America remains on the periphery of its foreign policy. The geographic distance is often cited as a barrier, but this has not impeded China's robust trade relationship with Latin America, which is six times larger than India's.

Travel and Exchange: Both regions view each other as intriguing but have yet to achieve significant levels of travel and exchange.

Key Drivers of the India-South America Relationship:

1. Trade and Economic Relations

Export and Import Partnerships: India is a major importer of crude oil from Latin America, particularly from Venezuela and Brazil. Conversely, Latin American countries import a range of Indian products such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, and vehicles. For instance, the Brazilian company Surya Brasil imports raw henna from India and exports manufactured henna products globally.

Investment Opportunities: Indian companies like Tata and Mahindra have invested in Latin America. Tata Motors has a manufacturing facility in Argentina, and Mahindra & Mahindra has invested in the agricultural sector in Brazil.

2. Agriculture and Food Security

Agricultural Cooperation: The Indian government and Latin American countries have collaborated on agricultural technology transfers. For example, India's experience with high-yielding variety seeds and cultivation techniques has been shared with countries like Argentina and Brazil to enhance crop production.

Food Security: India and Latin American countries, such as Colombia, have worked together on projects to improve food security through better agricultural practices and technology exchange.

3. Technology and Innovation

IT and Digital Services: Indian IT companies like Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys have established operations in Latin America. TCS has a significant presence in countries like Brazil and Argentina, providing IT services to local and international clients.

Innovation Hubs: Indian companies and Latin American governments have set up innovation centers. For instance, the Brazilian government has partnered with Indian tech firms to create technology parks in São Paulo.

4. Energy and Natural Resources

Energy Cooperation: Indian companies have invested in energy projects in Latin America. For example, ONGC Videsh Limited, the overseas arm of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, has invested in oil exploration projects in Venezuela.

Resource Management: The Indian company Vedanta Resources has been involved in mining operations in Peru, focusing on the extraction of copper and zinc.

5. Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare

Pharmaceutical Trade: India's pharmaceutical companies, such as Cipla and Sun Pharma, supply generic medicines to Latin American markets. Cipla's medications help reduce healthcare costs in countries like Brazil and Argentina.

Healthcare Collaboration: Indian pharma companies have partnered with Latin American countries for the local manufacturing of generic drugs. For instance, Indian pharmaceutical giant, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, has established joint ventures in Mexico for manufacturing and distributing medicines.

6. Cultural Exchange and Education

Cultural Diplomacy: Bollywood's reach into Latin America is exemplified by Mexican actress Bárbara Mori starring in the film *Kites* and Brazilian actresses appearing in Indian films.

Educational Exchanges: The Indian government provides scholarships to Latin American students. For example, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) offers scholarships to students from Latin American countries for higher education in India.

7. Infrastructure and Development

Infrastructure Projects: Indian companies have engaged in infrastructure development in Latin America. For instance, L&T Construction, an Indian multinational, has been involved in various infrastructure projects in Brazil, including road construction and urban development.

Development Assistance: India has provided concessional loans and grants for development projects in Latin America. The Indian government has supported projects related to renewable energy and rural development in countries like Guyana.

8. Strategic and Political Cooperation

Diplomatic Engagement: India and Latin American countries collaborate in global forums. Both India and Brazil are active members of BRICS and IBSA, working together on various international issues.

Strategic Partnerships: India and Brazil have worked together on initiatives such as advocating for the reform of the UN Security Council and promoting a multipolar world order.

9. Tourism and Travel

Tourism Promotion: Efforts to boost tourism include promotional events and travel packages targeting tourists from Latin America to India and vice versa. The India Tourism Office in Buenos Aires promotes travel and cultural exchange between India and Argentina.

Travel Agreements: India and several Latin American countries, such as Chile and Brazil, have signed agreements to ease visa requirements and facilitate travel for business and tourism purposes.

10. Sustainable Development and Environmental Cooperation

Climate Action: India and Latin American countries are collaborating on climate change initiatives. For example, India and Brazil have worked together on the development of renewable energy projects, including solar and wind energy, as part of their commitment to the Paris Agreement.

Sustainable Practices: Collaboration on sustainable agricultural practices, such as No-Till farming techniques from Latin America being applied in India to improve soil health and productivity.



Challenges and Obstacles in India-Latin America Relations

1. Complex Political and Economic Landscape:

Diverse Countries: India must navigate relationships with over twenty Latin American countries, each with its own political and economic context.

Latin American Integration: Compared to regions like ASEAN or the European Union, Latin America has less political and economic cohesion, complicating bilateral engagements.

2. Political Instability and Ideological Shifts:

Political Fluctuations: Political changes and varying ideological currents in both regions have impacted efforts to build stable and enduring partnerships.

Historical Examples: The India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) forum, once promising, has seen reduced activity and diminished significance in recent years.

3. Economic Disparities:

Economic Growth: India's economy continues to grow at over 7% annually, while Latin America's growth has been sluggish, with an IMF forecast of 1.1% in 2017 and 2% in 2018, and a medium-term growth of 2.6%.

Impact on Trade: Lower growth rates in Latin America affect trade dynamics and may lead to increased efforts to attract Indian investment and improve economic incentives.

Trade Imbalances and Vulnerabilities:

Trade Statistics: In 2015-16, Latin America accounted for less than 3% of India's exports and just over 5% of its imports. The composition of trade is vulnerable to global economic trends.

Decline in Imports: India's hydrocarbon imports from Latin America fell from \$24.5 billion in 2013-14 to around \$10 billion in 2015-16.

4. High Tariffs and Trade Barriers:

Tariff Disparities: India's average tariff on Latin American agricultural goods is 65%, compared to China's 12.5%. Latin American tariffs on Indian goods are also higher than OECD averages.

5. Connectivity Challenges:

Transport Costs: High transport costs due to lack of direct shipping services and infrastructure issues hinder trade. Indian companies face challenges in accessing Latin American markets effectively.

Historical Attempts: Past efforts to establish direct shipping connections have failed due to economic unfeasibility, and no recent institutional initiatives have addressed these issues.

6. Limited Institutional and Financial Engagement:

Institutional Presence: India lacks participation in key Latin American financial institutions like the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), limiting its involvement in regional projects.

Banking Connections: There is a minimal institutional banking presence in Latin America, with only a single non-retail branch of the State Bank of India in São Paulo and limited lines of credit.

7. Uneven Investment Footprint:

Indian Investments: India has made significant investments in Latin American sectors such as hydrocarbons, pharma, and automotive industries, estimated at around \$20 billion.

Latin American Presence: Latin American business presence in India is relatively small, with obstacles including regulatory hurdles and a challenging business environment.

8. Sector-Specific Challenges:

Failed Projects: High-profile projects such as the Bolivian Mutun iron ore venture and others have faced setbacks due to investment issues and market volatility.

IT Sector Success: Indian IT companies have succeeded in Latin America through the 'near-shoring' model, leveraging local resources and time zone advantages.

9. Cultural and Linguistic Barriers:

Language Issues: The lack of fluency in Spanish and Portuguese among Indian companies and professionals is a significant barrier.

Cultural Familiarity: There is limited understanding of Latin American culture and business practices in India, affecting effective engagement and partnership.

10. Competitive Pressures

Global Competition: Both regions face competition from other global players, such as China, which may affect their bilateral cooperation and trade dynamics.

The Way Forward: Enhancing India-Latin America Relations

Strategic Vision and Commitment: The disparity between the potential and actual state of India-Latin America relations is stark, especially when compared to engagements with China or South Korea. Both regions must develop a clear, comprehensive strategy to bridge this gap and enhance mutual understanding beyond transient diplomatic engagements.

Strengthening Bilateral Frameworks:

Institutionalization: Focus on articulating a strategic plan that includes revisiting the India-CELAC joint statement of 2012, emphasizing political, economic, and technological collaborations.

Regular Dialogue: Ensure regular, high-level meetings and follow-through on commitments to strengthen institutional memory and relationship continuity.

Enhancing Political and Economic Engagement:

Increased Focus: Latin America needs to be given higher priority in Indian diplomacy, akin to India's approach to Southeast Asia and Africa.

Economic Integration: Support political initiatives with concrete economic and social interactions, including investment protection agreements and removal of regulatory barriers.

Leveraging Synergies:

Complementary Strengths: Utilize synergies between India's strengths in software, space technology, and biotechnology with Latin America's expertise in agriculture, renewable energy, and social engineering.

Collaborative Opportunities: Focus on areas where both regions can benefit from each other's capabilities, fostering mutual growth.

Expanding Trade and Investment Agreements:

Trade Agreements: Intensify efforts under the Focus Latin America & Caribbean (FOCUS LAC) program, and negotiate free or preferential trade agreements with key Latin American countries.

Overcoming Resistance: Address local resistance and balance of payments concerns in both regions to facilitate smoother trade and investment flows.

Understanding China's Approach:

China's Influence: Recognize China's model of engagement in Latin America, which has been effective due to its economic prowess and predictable policies.

Incremental Progress: While India cannot match China's scale, it should focus on incremental improvements and strategic positioning.

Improving Connectivity and Market Access:

Transport and Logistics: Address the high cost and logistical challenges of shipping between India and Latin America.

Infrastructure Investment: Consider investments in infrastructure, including direct shipping routes and warehousing facilities.

Enhancing Cultural and Academic Exchanges:

Cultural Diplomacy: Strengthen cultural interactions to build a more authentic appreciation of each other's societies. Expand academic and cultural exchange programs.

Technical Scholarships: Promote and utilize Indian technical scholarships more effectively to build closer academic ties.

Engaging with Regional Blocs:

Sub-Regional Integration: Integrate India's approach with Latin American regional blocs like the Pacific Alliance and Mercosur to streamline engagement and negotiation processes.

Strategic Sector Cooperation:

Defense and Space: Enhance cooperation in strategic sectors such as defense, space technology, and anti-terrorism efforts.

Addressing Challenges: Learn from past setbacks and ensure that future ventures are better managed and more strategically aligned.

Promoting Soft Power and Civilizational Strengths:

Cultural Promotion: Build on India's soft power strengths, such as yoga and classical arts, to improve its image and influence in Latin America.

Academic and Cultural Engagement: Increase focus on academic and cultural exchanges to strengthen bilateral ties.

Government Sensitivity and Coordination:

Synchronizing Efforts: Ensure that bilateral exchanges are coordinated to handle disruptions like political upheavals or market distortions.

Communicative Coordination: Maintain open communication channels to align strategies and policies between Indian and Latin American governments.

Conclusion

India's international role has evolved significantly in this century, shifting from Non-Alignment to a more pragmatic and strategic approach. Despite a lack of historical baggage with Latin America, over the past two decades, India and Latin America have both transformed significantly, moving toward stable growth and prosperity. This evolution has fostered a more positive perception of each other, revealing valuable complementarities and synergies. The enhanced understanding between the regions has opened doors for deeper economic, political, and cultural ties, promising a dynamic and mutually beneficial future.

PRELIMS QUESTION:

Q. Consider the following organizations/groups:

1. BRICS
2. BASIC
3. G-20
4. G-4
5. IBSA
6. I2U2
7. ISA

India and Brazil are members of how many of the organizations/groups given above?

- A. Only four
- B. Only five
- C. Only six
- D. All seven

ANSWER: C

MAINS QUESTION:

What role do strategic partnerships and regional organizations play in enhancing the relationship between India and South America, and how are these interactions influencing global geopolitical dynamics?

PRELIMS Bits: INS Arighaat

This article covers “Daily Current Affairs” and the topic details the Indian Navy commissioned its second Arihant-Class submarine, INS Arighaat,

Syllabus mapping:

GS-3: Science and Technology: Recent development in defense technology.

For Prelims:

What is INS Arighaat: features, range, developed by, etc? What is a nuclear Triad?

For Mains:

Indigenization of Defense technology and various initiatives?

Why in the News?

On August 29, 2024, the Indian Navy commissioned its second Arihant-Class submarine, INS Arighaat, at Visakhapatnam, with Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh presiding over the ceremony. This strategic addition is set to bolster India’s nuclear triad, strengthen nuclear deterrence, and contribute to regional strategic stability and peace. Shri Rajnath Singh highlighted that the commissioning of INS Arighaat reflects the Modi Government's commitment to achieving self-reliance in defense and advancing the country’s strategic capabilities.



What is the INS Arighaat?

INS Arighaat is a nuclear-powered submarine of the Indian Navy. It is the second submarine in India's Arihant class, following INS Arihant. The Arihant-class submarines are designed to carry and launch ballistic missiles, serving as India's underwater nuclear deterrent.

Features of INS Arighaat:

Advanced Technology: The INS Arighaat represents a significant technological advancement over its predecessor, the INS Arihant. This progress is attributed to the integration of indigenous technologies, which enhances its overall capabilities.

Indigenous Systems and Equipment: The submarine features advanced design and manufacturing technology. Its construction involved extensive R&D, the use of specialized materials, and complex engineering. The MoD highlights that INS Arighaat includes systems and equipment that were conceptualized, designed, manufactured, and integrated by Indian scientists, industry professionals, and naval personnel.

Secret Shipbuilding Centre: The nearly 112-meter-long INS Arighaat was commissioned at a highly secretive shipbuilding center in Visakhapatnam, underscoring the sensitive nature of its construction and deployment.

Enhanced Endurance: Powered by 83 MW pressurized light-water nuclear reactors, INS Arighaat can stay submerged for extended periods, a key advantage over conventional diesel-electric submarines that must surface frequently to recharge batteries.

Nuclear-Tipped Missiles: INS Arighaat is equipped with four launch tubes capable of carrying up to 12 K-15 Sagarika submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) with a 750 km range, or four K-4 SLBMs with a range of 3,500 km. This capability allows for significant offensive and defensive options.

Speed and Size: With a displacement of around 6,000 tonnes, INS Arighaat can reach speeds of 12-15 knots (22-28 km/h) on the surface and up to 24 knots (44 km/h) when submerged, enhancing its operational flexibility.

Naming Significance: The name "Arighaat" derives from the Sanskrit term meaning "Destroyer of the Enemy," reflecting its role as a key asset in India's naval strategy.

Strategic Role in Nuclear Triad: INS Arighaat enhances India's nuclear triad, which enables the country to launch nuclear weapons from land, air, and sea. Its capability to launch ballistic nuclear missiles is crucial for maintaining deterrence and executing retaliatory strikes within India's "no-first-use" nuclear policy.

Comparison to Foreign Submarines: While INS Arighaat is advanced, it is smaller than the nuclear submarines of other major powers like the US, Russia, the UK, France, and China. For example, China's Jin-class submarines are larger and carry JL-3 missiles with a range of up to 10,000 km.

Significance of the INS Arighaat:

Strategic Deterrence: As part of India's nuclear triad, INS Arighaat plays a crucial role in maintaining strategic deterrence, ensuring that India has a credible second-strike capability in the event of a nuclear conflict.

Extended Range and Endurance: The nuclear propulsion system grants INS Arighaat significant operational range and endurance, allowing it to conduct long-duration patrols without the need for refueling.

Survivability and Stealth: Its advanced stealth features and low acoustic signature enhance its survivability, enabling it to operate undetected in contested environments.

Effective Power Projection: The submarine's missile capability allows it to project power and influence in the Indian Ocean region and beyond, contributing to regional stability and security.

Operational Flexibility: INS Arighaat can operate in various maritime environments, including deep waters and near-coastal regions, making it versatile in both strategic and tactical roles.

Strategic Balance: By enhancing India's naval capabilities, INS Arighaat contributes to the strategic balance in the Indian Ocean, supporting peace and stability in the region.

Prelims Question:

Q. Consider the following pairs:

Pair-1	Pair-2
1. INS Arihant:	Nuclear power submarine
2. INS Vikrant	Aircraft Carrier
3. INS Vishakhapatnam	Stealth-Guided missile destroyer
4. INS Arighaat	First nuclear warhead carrier

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. None of the pairs
- B. Only two pair
- C. Only three pairs
- D. All four pairs

[Munde Dhananjay Navnath](#)

3RD EDITION OF INDIA-U.S. DEFENCE ACCELERATION ECOSYSTEM (INDUS-X)

SYLLABUS MAPPING:

GS-2 -International relations: **3rd Edition of India-U.S. Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X)**

FOR PRELIMS:

Which of the following best describes the primary objectives and key features of the 3rd Edition of the India-U.S. Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X)?

FOR MAINS:

Discuss the significance and key features of the 3rd Edition of the India-U.S. Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X). How does this edition build upon previous iterations, and what are its expected impacts on defense technology collaboration between India and the United States?

RECENT CONTEXT:

The United States come together to discuss new ideas and technologies in the defence sector. The third edition of this summit is set to take place on September 9-10, 2024, at Stanford University in California. INDUS-X was launched in June 2023 to expand the strategic technology partnership and defence industrial cooperation between the Indian and the US governments, businesses, accelerators/incubators, investors, and academia. Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), the Defence Innovation Unit (DIU), and the Office of the Secretary of Defence (OSD) lead INDUS-X for the Indian Ministry of Defence and the US Department of Defence (DoD).

WHAT ARE THE KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SECOND INDUS-X SUMMIT?

Focus on Indo-Pacific Security:

- The summit emphasised the critical role India and the US play as key partners in ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific region. Discussions centred on co-producing advanced military capabilities, strengthening defence supply chains, and enhancing interoperability to address shared security challenges.

Promoting Innovation and Collaboration:

- Emphasis was placed on fostering innovation in defence technologies through collaborative efforts between Indian and American industries. The summit provided a platform for startups and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the defence sector to engage with established players, facilitating knowledge exchange and partnerships.

Defence Partnership Between India and the United States:

- The summit highlighted the strong defence partnership between India and the US, citing initiatives like Initiatives on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) aimed at fostering innovation across key sectors, including defence.

Emphasis on Technological Innovation:

- The Summit emphasised the crucial role of technological innovation in defence within the broader context of the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership, fostering collective progress for defence industries across borders.

Joint IMPACT Challenges:

- The Summit highlighted the introduction of Joint IMPACT Challenges, aiming to advance defence and aerospace co-development and co-production collaboratively, involving startups in pioneering solutions.

ABOUT U.S.-INDIA DEFENSE ACCELERATOR ECOSYSTEM (INDUS-X)

1. It was launched in June 2023 during the state visit of the Prime Minister of India to the US.
2. To expand strategic technology partnerships and defence industrial cooperation between governments, businesses, and academic institutions in India and the US.
3. INDUS X will be a defence innovation bridge, which will inter-alia, include Joint Challenges, Joint Innovation Fund, Academia engagement, Industry-startup connect, investment by private entities in defence projects, mentoring by experts and niche technology projects, etc.
4. The initiative aims to explore possibilities for co-producing jet engines, long-range artillery, and infantry vehicles.
5. India's Innovations for Defense Excellence (iDEX) and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), US, are leading INDUS-X activities.

KEY ASPECTS OF THE 3RD EDITION OF INDUS-X

Objective and Purpose:

- The 3rd Edition of INDUS-X aims to accelerate the development and deployment of advanced defense technologies. It focuses on fostering collaboration between startups, innovators, and defense organizations from both India and the U.S., promoting joint ventures and technology transfer.

Focus Areas:

- This edition continues to emphasize emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, unmanned systems (drones), and advanced manufacturing. These areas are critical for modernizing defense capabilities and addressing contemporary security challenges.
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KEY FEATURES:

Innovation Challenges and Competitions:

- The program often includes challenges and competitions designed to encourage startups and innovators to develop cutting-edge solutions. These challenges can cover specific technology areas or problem sets relevant to both nations' defense needs.

Partnerships and Collaborations:

- The 3rd Edition is expected to feature new partnerships and collaborations, enhancing ties between defense companies, research institutions, and government agencies. This could include memorandums of understanding (MOUs) or joint research initiatives.

Showcase and Networking Events:

- The event may include showcases where participants present their technologies and solutions, as well as networking opportunities for stakeholders from both countries to discuss potential collaborations and investments.

EXPECTED IMPACTS:

Technological Advancement:

- By promoting collaboration and innovation, INDUS-X is expected to lead to the rapid development and deployment of advanced defense technologies. This can result in enhanced defense capabilities and technological superiority for both India and the U.S.

Strategic Partnerships:

- Strengthening the strategic defense relationship between India and the U.S. is a key outcome, contributing to broader geopolitical stability and security.

WHAT IS INNOVATIONS FOR DEFENSE EXCELLENCE (IDEX)?

1. It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Defence, Govt of India, launched in 2018.
2. The objective of the scheme is to cultivate an innovation ecosystem in the Defence and Aerospace sector by collaborating with startups, innovators, MSMEs, incubators, and academia.
3. iDEX offers grants and support for R&D with significant potential for future adoption in Indian defence and aerospace.
4. It is currently engaged with around 400+ Startups and MSMEs.
5. It is recognized as a game-changer in the defence ecosystem, iDEX has received the PM Award for Innovation in the defence sector.
6. iDEX will function as the executive arm of DIO, carrying out all the required activities, while DIO will provide high level policy guidance to iDEX.

WHAT ARE THE KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA-US DEFENCE COOPERATION?

Framework and Partnership Renewal:

1. The foundation of India-US defence cooperation lies in the "New Framework for India-US Defence Cooperation," renewed for a decade in 2015.
2. In 2016, the partnership was upgraded to a **Major Defence Partnership (MDP)**.
3. India's elevation to **Tier-1 status** under the US Department of Commerce's **Strategic Trade Authorization license** exception occurred on July 2018.

Institutionalised Dialogue Mechanisms:

1. The **2+2 Ministerial Dialogue**, involving the Ministers of External Affairs and Defence from both nations along with their US counterparts, serves as the apex platform for addressing political, military, and strategic issues.
2. The 5th Edition of the India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue took place, November 2023 in New Delhi.

Defence Policy Group (DPG):

1. The DPG, led by the Defence Secretary and Under Secretary of Defence (Policy), facilitates a comprehensive review of defence dialogues and mechanisms.
2. The 17th DPG convened in Washington D.C. in May 2023.

Defence Procurements and Platforms:

1. Defence procurements from the US are on the rise, amounting to nearly US\$20 billion.
2. Key US-origin platforms in use by India include **Apache, Chinook, MH60R helicopters, and P8I aircraft**.
3. Recently, the US State Department has approved a possible foreign military sale of **31 MQ-9B Sky Guardian** to India.

Important Defence Agreements:

1. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (2016), Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (2018), Industrial Security Agreement (2019), Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (2020), and Memorandum of Intent for Defence Innovation Cooperation (2018).

Military-to-Military Exchanges:

1. High-level visits, exercises, training courses, and service-specific bilateral mechanisms facilitate military-to-military exchanges.
2. India participates in a growing number of military exercises with the US, including **Yudh Abhyas, Vajra Prahar, Malabar, Cope India, and Tiger Triumph, among others**.
3. Participation in multilateral exercises like **Red Flag, Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), CUTLASS Express, Sea Dragon, and Milan** further strengthens cooperation.
4. **INS Satpura marked the first Indian naval ship to visit the US mainland** as part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** in August 2022.
5. India joined the **multilateral Combined Maritime Force (CMF)** as an Associate Partner in April 2022, based in Bahrain.



CONCLUSION:

In summary, the 3rd Edition of INDUS-X represents a significant evolution in defence collaboration between India and the U.S., reflecting a deepened commitment to innovation and strategic partnership. Its focus on

advanced technologies, expanded collaboration, and tangible economic impacts positions it as a key driver of future defence advancements and bilateral relations.

PRELIMS QUESTION:

Q. Recently, the USA decided to support India's membership in multi-lateral export control regimes called the "Australia Group" and the "Wassenaar Arrangement". What is the difference between them? (2011)

1. The Australia Group is an informal arrangement which aims to allow exporting countries to minimize the risk of assisting chemical and biological weapons proliferation, whereas the Wassenaar Arrangement is a formal group under the OECD holding identical objectives.
2. The Australia Group comprises predominantly of Asian, African and North American countries whereas the member countries of Wassenaar Arrangement are predominantly from the European Union and American Continents.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

MAINS QUESTION:

Q. What introduces friction into the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India's National self-esteem and ambitions'. Explain with suitable examples.(2019)

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