

## **A Turkish Foreign Policy Treading on Ottoman Footprints**

### **What is the issue?**

Turkish presence across the former Ottoman realm seeks to reshape the modern nation with the imprint of its earlier Islamic and military glory.

### **What interventions by Turkey stirred regional chaos?**

- **Azerbaijan** - Turkey supported Azerbaijan against its arch-rival, Armenia and secured a victory that gave Azerbaijan a large part of the territory from its neighbour.
- **Iran** - Azerbaijan's demand over the **Zangezur corridor**, if conceded, would cut off Iran's direct link with Armenia, while giving Turkey a direct route to Azerbaijan and Central Asian republics, bypassing Iran.



- This has divided the region with Turkey, Georgia and Azerbaijan on one side and Iran and Armenia on the other side.
- **Mediterranean** - Turkey's plans to obtain a naval presence on the Libyan coast and in the Red Sea has led to a new defence agreement between France and Greece.
- **Russia**- Turkey's rejects Russia's illegal occupation of Crimea and is providing Ukraine with military drones.
- Turkey has begun the construction of "**Canal Istanbul**", a new link from the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara, raising concerns about Russia's free movement.



## How is Turkey's relation with the global powers?

- Turkey violated its status as a **NATO member** by purchasing the Russian S-400 missile defence system in 2017.
- Turkey was expelled by the U.S. from the development of America's F-35 jet fighter project and was put into sanctions.
- Turkey and Russia are on opposite sides in Syria, Libya, Ukraine and in the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict, the bilateral relation is in ease.
- Russia has adopted 'strategic patience' in order to detach Turkey from NATO.
- Russia has even promised Sukhoi Su-57 aircraft and a second battery of the S-400 defence system to Turkey.

## What is the status on resetting of relationships?

- Turkey has reached out to both Egypt and Saudi Arabia to improve their relations.
- Turkey has also signalled a new approach in Libya that would accommodate its rivals — Egypt, the UAE and Russia.
- Turkey is pursuing a dual-track approach with Iran by confronting it in the Caucasus while building substantial bilateral energy and economic ties.
- Turkey insists on asserting its strategic autonomy and independence of action, and enjoys sitting at the global high table.
- The domestic divisions and economic fragility such as unemployment,

inflation, currency collapse, and capital flight will finally determine the regional influence of Turkey.

**Source: The Hindu**

