

India's Foreign Policy Re-orientation

What is the issue?

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In recent times union government has shifted considerably in its policy signalling with his neighbouring nations.

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What are India's recent stands on foreign policies?

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- Indian Prime Minister visited Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, three of India's most important partners in Southeast Asia recently for foreign policy positioning.

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- In the past few months, the government has shifted considerably in its signalling, with China and Russia for informal summits.

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- These measures have taken place at a time the U.S. administration has sharpened its aim at China and Russia with sanctions and threats of a trade war.

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- India tries for a strategic posturing on the global stage, and striving for a more balanced approach in what it increasingly sees as an uncertain world.

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What are the significant foreign policy improvements?

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- India has maintained its commitment to relations with the U.S. in order to build a "free and open" Indo-Pacific region, maintain the "international rules-based order".

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- It plans to work together to combat terrorism and terror financing as they

have done more recently at the UN and the Financial Action Task Force.

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- India's has showed its interest in membership of the Quadrilateral with the U.S., Japan and Australia to tackle Chinese influence in south Asian region.
- At the same time India has also ready to co-operate in Shanghai Cooperation Organisation the Russia-China-led grouping of Central Asian countries.
- It is significant that in Singapore India chose the platform of the Shangri-La Dialogue of defence leaders of the Asia-Pacific region to emphasise Indian "strategic autonomy".

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What is India's plan on Shangri-La dialogue?

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- The Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD) is a "Track One" inter-governmental security forum held annually by an independent think tank International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).
- It is attended by defence ministers, permanent heads of ministries and military chiefs of 28 Asia-Pacific states.
- The summit serves to cultivate a sense of community among the most important policymakers in the defence and security community in the region.
- In the recent meet India has referred the concept of the "Indo-Pacific" to India's relations with Russia, the U.S. and China.
- India used the dialogue to unveil a seven-point vision for the Indo-Pacific region.
- While warning the world about the possible return of "great power rivalries", India emphasised the importance and centrality of the ASEAN in the concept of the Indo-Pacific.

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Source: The Hindu

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