

Ques: Keeping China out of the regional security order is not possible realistic. Meanwhile letting China dominate is not desirable. What should India do to balance the rising China in the South Asian Region?

With its various initiatives like Belt & Road, String of Pearls etc. and flourishing economy, China is rising as a superpower in the South Asian Region.

A balanced and realistic approach is needed to counter the influence of China in South Asian Region.

Steps, India must take to counter China without affecting relations

→ Demographic Divident :- In the coming years, India is going to have one of the highest number of working age population. If empowered enough, this population can substitute China's cheap labor which is the major factor for various MNC to assemble products in China.

→ Increase in R & D :- India spends less than 01.1% in R & D among which $\frac{2}{3}$ is contributed by government sector while $\frac{1}{3}$ is by private sector. We know that Chinese products/items floods Indian markets on the eve of every festival, electronic products etc. A more attention towards R & D and entrepreneurship will not only promote the government's idea of Make in India but also reduce the influence of Chinese products in Indian market.

→ Geo-Economics & Soft-Power :- Last year an exhibition was held in Bengal which was based on theme :- "Hicun Tsang"; recently a college was opened in China to provide

Courses on Yoga whereby some classes will held in China & rest will held in India. Such initiatives would be promoted with higher frequency to reduce trust-deficit between countries.

It is very necessary to counter China's presence in the South-Asian Region because it is associated with issues like security concerns due growing presence of China in Indian Ocean Region ; Economic concerns due to growing influence of Chinese goods etc.