

4. Promote Moderate Islam - India should ~~support~~^{offer} strong public support for reforms in region i.e. recent reforms in UAE & Saudi Arabia. It will help in reducing extremist ideologies.
5. Strategic Economic Cooperation - India should make effort in deepening cooperation in digital innovation, space production, space technology etc.
6. Security Cooperation - Gulf Region had been depending on Britain and US for protection but recent act of downsizing US's role in Gulf region by Trump gives India an opportunity to India to fill this vacuum.
7. Multilateral Relations - India has good bilateral relations with Gulf countries but it should try to develop multilateral relations also for better opportunities for India.

India's non ideological and non defensive approach towards Gulf region is responsible for growing cooperation with this region. It is time for India to take this relationship on next level by following proactive strategy.

Ques Discuss the major areas that are required to be strengthened to deepen the cooperation in the Gulf region by India.

Recent visit of PM of India to Bahrain and UAE highlights the importance of Gulf region for India. Gulf region satisfies huge energy needs of India and Gulf countries serve India's interests in economic, geopolitical, diplomatic, geographical, cultural, historical areas.

Though India has good relations with Gulf countries but these relations are yet to be harnessed to their full potential which can be done through a new approach with focus on following areas.

1. Counter Terror Cooperation - Some Gulf countries have expanded counter terror cooperation with India, extending support to India in matter of J&K, and opened OIC platform for India despite Pakistan's objections.
2. Indian Diaspora - Gulf countries have huge Indian diaspora (≈ 7 mn) which have long standing concerns. Gulf countries should ~~also~~ address these concerns.
3. Deepen Energy Interdependence - India is largest energy importer of Gulf region. Recent decision of Saudi Aramco to buy 20% stake in oil business of Reliance Industries and UAE's support for construction of Strategic Petroleum Reserve are good steps in this direction. India should work with other Gulf countries also to cooperate in this field.