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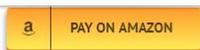


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1. India's neighbourhood first policy needs a strong push

- Why India must take neighbourhood relations seriously ahead of global issues such as climate change, trade and building a multipolar order?
- What are the challenges to India in its immediate neighbourhood?

GS paper 2 (India and its neighbourhood relations)

In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

The above article has been retrieved from:

N.A. (2018, October , 19). India's neighbourhood first policy needs a strong push. The Hindustan times. Retrieved from <https://www.hindustantimes.com/editorials/india-s-neighbourhood-first-policy-needs-a-push/story-Cs4vK9RymKpTR9RZetm9kK.html>

What is the context about?

- The controversy over a false report to assassinate President Maithripala Sirisena blew over after the Sri Lankan leader telephoned Prime Minister Narendra Modi and rejected reports about alleged Indian involvement in the plot.
- The reports about the alleged plot hint at some sort of lack of communication between the leadership of the two countries, especially at a time when India's relations with

some of its key neighbours appear to have been affected by various irritants and developments in the region.

Why India must take neighbourhood relations seriously ahead of global issues such as climate change, trade and building a multipolar order?

No more fraying of neighbourhood ties: At a time when India's relations with its largest neighbour, Pakistan, are completely in a deep freeze and there has been an uptick in the violence in war-torn Afghanistan, New Delhi can't afford the fraying of ties with any of the other countries in the region..

China is watching us closely: China has already established a considerable foothold in Sri Lanka, having taken over the strategic Hambantota port and 15,000 acres of land around it after the island nation was unable to repay Chinese loans. China now has a presence in territory located just hundreds of kilometres from India and overlooking important commercial and military sea lanes.

Moving away Maldives: In the Maldives, former president Abdulla Yameen was able to defy pressure from India and other countries opposed to his autocratic ways largely because he believed the Chinese had his back.

Dissatisfaction in Bangladesh: In Bangladesh, there is growing disquiet among the political leadership over threats by Indian politicians to push back people excluded from the National Register of Citizens to the neighbouring country as well as India's perceived silence on the issue of Myanmar

taking back hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees now living in Bangladesh.

What are the challenges to India in its immediate neighbourhood?

Nepal: Dealing with a new government in Nepal or containing prolonged communal and terror related unrest in Bangladesh will need more than fine gestures; they will need far more closer monitoring

Maldives: Another and a more imminent challenge for India is to sort out the imbroglio in the Maldives which is threatening to spill out of control. India cannot afford not to be directly engaged in finding a proper solution. Anti-Indian tendencies under current President have steadily increased and there has been a pronounced tilt in favour of China. Maldives Free trade agreement with China will provide an excellent opportunity to enhance Chinese influence in western Indian Ocean.

Pakistan: The last year ended with a serious ceasefire violations along the Line of Control with 200% increase in number of violations. Pakistan has also not refrained from persisting with its proxies like the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the JeM in its war with India. Pakistan shows no sign of altering its anti-India trajectory even after US president's changed rhetoric on Pakistan.

Afghanistan: Afghanistan's position today is the worst ever since the 1970s. This January, the capital city of Kabul witnessed one of the worst ever incidents of violence

anywhere, in which over 100 civilians were killed following a series of terror strikes. This happened despite the presence of foreign troops, elements of the Afghan military and also of the Afghan police.