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## **1. Rethinking the relationship with Gulf: New Delhi is paying too little attention to the growing weight of the region**

- What is the importance of Middle East for India?**
- Why India must tap the potentials of partnerships in the Middle East?**

**GS paper 2 (Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interest)**

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

**The above article has been retrieved from:**

C. Raja Mohan. (2018, December , 05). Raja Mandala: Rethinking the Gulf. The Indian Express. Retrieved from <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/narendra-modi-sushma-swaraj-india-middle-east-gulf-countries-egypt-uae-saudi-arabia-mecca-5476962/>

**What is the context about?**

- India's relations with the key Gulf countries have never been as good as they are today.**
- The deepening energy interdependence is marked by growing volumes of energy imports into India and the prospect of substantive investments from the Gulf into the Indian hydrocarbon sector.**

- ❑ The number of Indian migrant workers in the region stands at more than 7 million.
- ❑ The Gulf is among India's top trading partners.



## What is the importance of Middle East for India?

### Importance of Middle East

- ❑ **Energy** :India is heavily reliant on oil and natural gas from the Middle East, with 58 per cent of oil coming from the region, and an even higher 88 percent of liquefied natural gas deriving from states in the Middle East and relation with region is important to sustain oil demands .
- ❑ **Remittances** :Many of the workers are involved in blue collar jobs in Middle East and sending remittances which is one of the biggest contributor to capital account of India .

- ❑ **Diplomacy** : With the US exit from the region , there are many significant players which can influence India policy .Moreover for security and trade this region holds at most importance .

### **Why India must tap the potentials of partnerships in the Middle East?**

- ❑ If Delhi looks beyond the bilateral, it will find two very important axes of potential partnerships in the Middle East. One is the idea of a “moderate Arab centre”.
- ✓ The UAE leadership has made the construction of a moderate bloc in the region its highest regional priority.
- ✓ It sees the construction of such a core around Egypt and Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ Abu Dhabi believes that only a coalition of moderate Arab states can move the region out of its current deeply troubled state.
- ✓ Abu Dhabi also believes that the values of cultural openness, religious tolerance, women’s empowerment, and economic opportunities for younger people — which helped the Emirates succeed — can be extended to other parts of the Middle East.
- ❑ Second is the growing impact of the Gulf countries in the Indian Ocean region. Nowhere is this more evident than the Horn of Africa.

- ✓ The recent success of the UAE and Saudi Arabia in brokering peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea who had been locked in a prolonged conflict underlines the positive role of the Gulf in Africa.
- ✓ Others point to the destabilising impact of the rivalry between Saudi Arabia and the UAE on the one hand and Qatar and Turkey elsewhere in the region, most notably in Somalia and its rebel provinces.