

Forging AI-Powered Security Networks: Strengthening India's Strategic Partnership with Quad Nations for Enhanced Indo-Pacific Stability

GAJJAR MEET VIPULKUMAR¹, DR. JAGDISH JOSHI²

¹Research Scholar, School of International Studies & Diaspora, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

²Director, UGC-MMTC and James Reaney Canadian Centre, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

Abstract- The swift growth of artificial intelligence (AI) has forever altered global security paradigms, emphasizing the significance of collaborative frameworks for addressing foreseeable risks. The present research looks into the potential for establishing AI-powered security networks to boost India's strategic alliances with the Quad nations of Australia, Japan, and the United States in order to ensure Indo-Pacific stability. As geopolitical tensions and cybersecurity threats increase, embedding AI technology into security frameworks opens up new avenues for information exchange, real-time threat analysis, and predictive decision making. The research investigation looks into the use of artificial intelligence in improving the Quad's collective security actions, with a focus on maritime domain awareness, cyber warfare countermeasures, and vital infrastructure protection. This study emphasizes the need of leveraging AI for strategic collaboration among nations, with a focus on India's unique position as a regional leader and Quad nation. To reduce misuse and maintain mutual confidence, significant challenges include designing secure data-sharing protocols, employing ethical AI, and following international law. The paper also notes obstacles like as technical gaps, data sovereignty concerns, and a lack of shared AI governance frameworks across the Quad members. To deal with these difficulties, this piece proposes a collaborative AI research strategy, capacity-building initiatives, and the establishment of a Quad AI Security Council to oversee policy alignment and operation. Study results indicate that adding AI-powered security networks might significantly enhance Quad's ability to address both traditional and non-traditional security threats in the Indo-Pacific. These connections have the ability to deter violent behavior, ensure marine security, and protect digital infrastructure by providing real-time situational information and coordinated responses. This paper emphasizes the strategic importance of artificial intelligence in reshaping India's military diplomacy

within the Quad framework, hence aiding peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific while underscoring the nations' common commitment to an international system based on rules. The interpretations urge India to take the lead in integrating AI development with shared security goals, ensuring that technological advancements result in tangible security benefits for the region at large. This strategy of action not only strengthens India's geopolitical position, but it also confirms the Quad's role in maintaining Indo-Pacific stability in an increasingly complex global security environment

Keywords: AI-Powered Security Networks, Indo-Pacific Stability, Quad Strategic Partnerships, Maritime Domain Awareness, Cyber Warfare Countermeasures, AI Governance Frameworks

I. INTRODUCTION

The Indo-Pacific area is seen as a worldwide geopolitical focal point, encompassing some of the world's most active trade routes, essential chokepoints, and strategically important regions. This region has seen rising geopolitical tensions, particularly as China's growing might has challenged the current rules-based international order (Brewster, 2021). To address these challenges, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), a strategic partnership between India, Australia, Japan, and the United States, has played a critical role in securing regional peace and security. While the Quad's initial focus was on humanitarian aid and disaster relief, it has since transitioned to combating conventional and non-traditional security issues in the Indo-Pacific (Singh, 2022). Artificial intelligence (AI) is quickly altering global security paradigms by improving threat detection, information exchange, and predictive

decision-making capabilities (Taddeo, 2019). As nations see the value of AI in security frameworks, it is critical to examine its application in strengthening multilateral alliances such as the Quad. AI-powered systems provide transformative capabilities in real-time situational awareness, cyber threat management, and critical infrastructure protection. These trends align with the Quad's shared aim of preserving a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific. The Indo-Pacific region is facing a range of traditional and non-traditional security challenges, including territorial disputes, maritime security concerns, cyberattacks, and critical infrastructure vulnerabilities. Modern security frameworks across the Quad states, however, suffer from a lack of strategic interoperability and insufficient integration of AI technology (Reddy, 2023). Additionally, the absence of consistent governance frameworks for AI inside the Quad raises significant barriers to collaboration. Addressing these weaknesses is crucial to enhancing the Quad's protection credentials. The present research examines the potential of AI-powered security networks in boosting India's strategic collaboration with the Quad States in order to sustain Indo-Pacific integrity. The study is meant to: Examine the applications of artificial intelligence in maritime domain awareness, cyber warfare countermeasures, and critical infrastructure preservation. Examine the problems of incorporating AI technology into the Quad's security architecture, including technological gaps, data sovereignty concerns, and ethical implications. Suggest concrete proposals to encourage collaboration across Quad nations, with a focus on India's leadership position in promoting AI-driven security projects. The present paper examines the strategic use of AI technology in three important domains: maritime domain awareness, cybersecurity, and critical infrastructure safeguarding. India's standing as a regional leader and Quad member is highlighted in terms of AI-based advancements. This study also considers the broader implications of AI integration for maintaining a rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research technique used in this article is qualitative reading and formal analysis, which includes case studies, archival research evaluation,

subjective reading, and a structural and comparative study of key subjects for the paper. The research study primarily relies on the original works of key authors and their interpretations of ideas, along with my own understanding of the topic. The use of these methodologies in the paper addresses the need to cover a wide range of knowledge, which is essential for a topic that requires situational and conditional understandings related to the perspectives of various writers. As a result, a qualitative reading and structural analysis are required to avoid bias in the article. The reason for such strict controls is to prevent the spread of incorrect information and perspectives. As described in the limitations section, it becomes necessary for the method in use to attempt to alleviate the concerns, which is why comparative analysis applications are developed.

III. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INDO-PACIFIC

Sea routes have always been the most practical way to become wealthy anywhere in the world. The seaway was utilised by Alexander the Great to conquer numerous continents across the world. The maritime route transported the entirety of the world's trade. Ancient civilisations grew up around the water. The sea or oceans are always significant for both the people and the state. So maritime trade and sea route exploration to discover new prospects for trade and conquest are not new phenomena because there is very limited land accessible on Earth when humans begin to need to expand for their day-to-day living activities. Humans were the first to establish new continents and water routes. The difference today is that the state now represents its residents since they live in that region. Historically, there were groups of early ancestors that hunted, but they discovered alternatives after inventing fire and the wheel. Humans no longer hunt but instead raise milk-producing animals. This will help humans survive. They then separate into groups. These little groupings grow into larger ones, known as a "community".

The community then grows into a bigger group, which constitutes a state. So, the main difficulty for groups is to trade and be sustainable, because each group has varied and unique characteristics, such as some groups creating extremely good clothing, others

making really nice handcars, some being artists, and so on. So, the main difficulty was how the group's leader exploited these special powers, so they began interacting with other groups, but they still couldn't support themselves efficiently, so the only option was to trade with other distant groups, so they began to explore land and sea. They can't get very far on the land path since much of it is covered in forest and the risk is considerable. On the other side, the sea route is an excellent option with several alternatives. As a result, most people used the water route rather than the land option. The sea is always vital to everyone. Vasco da Gama was the first Portuguese navigator to discover a maritime route to India. Then, in 1492, an Italian explorer called Christopher Columbus finds a number of water routes that connect the United States with Europe. The sea is significant because many people exploit it in many ways for their own benefit. Many European nations conquered other continents. They started with the sea. They came for commerce and then took over the region. Numerous significant naval conflicts occurred throughout the Middle Ages. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj possessed the largest army in India, and he was supreme commander. As a result, each state depends on the sea. The sea connects all of the continents rather than land. So, how important was the Indo-Pacific region? So says one of the world's largest waters, the Indo-Pacific. Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Timor-Leste (East Timor), the United States, and Vietnam are among the countries represented. Prior to WWI and WWII, all of these nations were colonial possessions of various European powers. Several of these countries are still governed by colonial powers. are known as third-world countries. Because, after much struggle, these countries were liberated from colonial oppression. So, taking India as an example, several foreign countries came to India via the sea route for industry and built colonies there. The Japan-Russia War, the Japan-China War, and Russia's conflicts all took place at sea, with very little combat fought on land. Asia is consequently one of the planet's largest continents.

Why is Asia the least developed? For many reasons. First, this continent is highly diverse. Second, different rulers only see themselves, not people. Ultimately, foreign powers control these countries and use them to develop their own. As a result, there are wars throughout Asia, and these third-world nations are still growing as a result of them. The Indo-Pacific was first. Asia-Pacific: China referred to this region as 'Asia-Pacific' rather than 'Indo-Pacific'. According to China, the West wishes to split Asia into two blocs. The first is who supports the west, and the second is who does not favour the west. That is why they are playing their chip tactics for a Western power. The developed world, on the other hand, considers China a threat since it is communist and does not share the same mentality as the West. The USSR was the main force in Asia until its demise when the US became the sole superpower. At the time, only China was regarded as a prominent Asian force. China is active in land occupation and fighting in the South China Sea. As a result, West Sea India is resisting China's aggressive approach. Because, in this day and time, every state desires autonomy and independence. No state wants external forces to meddle in its internal affairs. Only India and China are the two most populated countries in Asia. They make significant contributions to global GDP. As an outcome, each distant player needs one player in this zone.

As a consequence, all external influences are active. I call it the Great Indo-Pacific Game. In the previous two decades, they have said "Indo-Pacific" following Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Indian parliamentary address. All developed countries are establishing Indo-Pacific-specific plans and policies. Following Russia's invasion of Crimea, the strategic importance of the Indo-Pacific region has grown; all countries from west to east want to keep sea lines of communication safe, so they are attempting to counterbalance Russia and China in the Asian region. All of this has increased India's importance in the region, so every developed country wants to partner with India to maintain the Indo-Pacific power balance. So we'll see how India approaches the Indo-Pacific region now.

IV. INDIA'S HISTORY WITH THE INDO-PACIFIC

When India was under colonial authority, it had no rights, but following the 1957 rebellion, the British began to liberalise everything. So they began to provide internal administration authority, but foreign policy remained under British control. As a result, upon independence, India gained complete powers and government in their own way. Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister and foreign minister, was the first achiever and visionary in foreign policy. Nehru is an idealist. As an outcome, he has always respected global corporations. He continuously highlights non-alignment and opposes external interference. India claimed to be a big brother to all of the states around it, but they did not like India's involvement. India opposes any foreign involvement in the region because it has seen how colonialism has devastated states. India has often claimed the role of an older brother to its neighbours. However, it faced significant internal challenges, including the need to establish an economic strategy and address a food security crisis, among others. After independence, India was unable to assist any other states. There were two blocs in place when the Cold War began: one communist and one liberal. India refuses to be a part of any of this. India opted for a middle path of non-alignment. Over time, India began to exert influence and sought to intervene in the internal affairs of its neighbouring nations. However, India is unable to provide economic assistance to these states, as it remains insufficiently stable to do so. Consequently, the neighbouring states are dissatisfied. The genesis of the Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan Tamil crises are famous instances. As a result, India eventually gained independence and began to safeguard its borders and aid its neighbours. Following the 1990s economic crisis, India's foreign policy shifted to one of globalisation. Now that India understands the significance of its neighbours, it has enacted measures in their self-interest, such as Look East, the Neighbourhood First Policy, and so on. As a result, India began to give assistance, and Indian nationals travelled there and created a base. Following globalisation, India began to place increasing importance on the Indo-Pacific Ocean, largely due to its challenging experiences with China. The Look East policy was introduced by India, and

under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has recently begun to implement the Act East strategy.

India has undertaken several measures; however, the significance of maritime issues became apparent after the 1993 Mumbai bombing, and the importance of maritime security was further highlighted following the terrorist attacks in Mumbai on 26/11/2008. These two incidents are significant blows to India's ocean security and demonstrate how susceptible India is to the ocean. After globalisation, any state aspiring to exert hegemony over another must possess strength in economic, military, and soft power. Consequently, maritime domains are strategically vital for every state. India is the same way. Following independence, India pursued a non-aligned strategy. Then India rebounded in its economic sector since it selected agriculture to develop freedom first. So, by that time, India was doing extremely well, but India had forgotten that it had a 7500-kilometre-long coastline to guard following the 9/11 assault. India stressed coastal security and the necessity of free commerce in an open economy that relies on communication sea lanes. After 2008, India's strategy on coastal security and coastal ports underwent a dramatic transformation. India is prioritising maritime security to safeguard its national interests, aiming to deter other nations from coercing it or conducting military operations at sea that could be unfavourable to India. The country aspires to foster a friendly and positive maritime environment to enhance the security of its coastal states. India established marine troops such as the Indian coast guard. From Iran to Bangladesh, India has a large presence in the Indian Ocean. Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, Reunion Island, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, and Bangladesh all enjoy strong connections with India. India also maintained close ties with Japan, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. In 2014, India also established the Forum for India-Pacific Island Cooperation. One belt, one road, China's new silk road concept, is the greatest danger to India's maritime security. India also backed unrestricted trade and freedom of navigation and overflight based

on international law principles, most notably the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea ("India to Host 14 Pacific Leaders").

However, China refused to back it. That is why Western countries are concerned, and they do not want any country to have control over the seas. As a result, India is a trustworthy partner in the Indian Ocean and a gateway to the Pacific. As a result, they staged several joint exercises in the Indian and Pacific Oceans in order to counter-hegemony or influence China in the Indo-Pacific. India has nine coastlines, including Kutch, Kathiawar, Konkan, Malabar, Cape Comorin, Coromandel, Andhra Pradesh, Northern Circles, Utkal, and others; hence, India must safeguard all of these states as well as four union territories. As a result, India is the most dependable alternative for all Western nations because Afghanistan was first invaded by the Russian army, then by an American army in the guise of the war on terror, resulting in a lack of a stable government. As a result, Pakistan sponsors terrorism and lacks a stable government. Australia is the only country left with Japan, yet both rely on the United States. As a result, India is the only country in the area with so much potential, self-reliance, and variety. As a result, India maintains its strategic alignment position with all the nations around it.

V. HOW OTHER NATIONS ASSISTED INDIA AND HOW INDIA ASSISTED THE INDO-PACIFIC COUNTRIES

India's Indo-Pacific policy is built on two pillars: increased national participation in the area and deeper ties with like-minded states. The former enhances India's profile in the Indo-Pacific and increases Delhi's worth to its allies. Coalitions and partnerships, in turn, enhance India's national capabilities, extending its reach and impact. This approach differs significantly from previous metaphysics, which centred on the perceived necessity to uphold a certain ideology rather than a hard-headed pursuit of national interests. India's unique approach complements the US plan. Contrary to popular belief in Delhi, the US is not making new security obligations to India in order to "entrap" it into an alliance. Alliances include significant legal, political, and military responsibilities, and they are

not treated lightly in Washington. In the Indo-Pacific, the US is not gaining more "camp followers". It seeks allies and like-minded countries with the strategic interest, political clout, and material capabilities to contribute to regional security. The United States wishes to maintain its hegemony, but its greatest challenge in Asia is China. That is why the United States wants India to be on the same page.

That is why the United States, India, Japan, and Australia founded the Quad. On the other hand, Russia, which has been a strategic partner of India for a long time and an old friend of India, wants India to maintain a balance of power that is not overly aligned with the West, which is why Russia formed the BRICS organisation with the world's emerging economies such as Brazil, China, Russia, India, and South Africa. As we all know, India and China have boundary disputes and ideological disagreements, which is why Russia is attempting to strike a balance since Russia recognises the importance of India in the Asian area. That is why Russia has always remained neutral in India-China ties. As a result, India must navigate a delicate balance between the United States and Russia. Over the past two decades, successive US administrations have operated under the assumption that a robust India, capable of contributing to stability in Asia and the Indo-Pacific, aligns with American regional interests. The US plan wants to partner with India "via regional groupings to support South Asian stability; collaborate in new sectors such as health, space, and cyberspace; strengthen our economic and technological collaboration; and contribute to a free and open Indo-Pacific" (Mohan). The United States recognises that "India is a like-minded partner and leader in South Asia and the Indian Ocean, engaged in and connected to Southeast Asia, a driving force in the Quad and other regional fora, and a driving force in the Quad and other regional fora" (Mohan). The emphasis on India is distinct but not exclusive. The US goal of encouraging "allies and partners to develop their connections with one another" is more important. Previously, the US security strategy was primarily tied to various bilateral partnerships. It is now poised to shift towards a more interconnected regional architecture. An India that aspires to be a regional power will be a better partner for the US than a weak and defensive India. India's ability to lead the region,

in turn, is dependent on its national capacities and addressing fundamental domestic shortcomings, particularly in commerce and security. Delhi's intention to exit the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), an Asia-wide free trade deal, at the end of 2019, as well as its new emphasis on Atmanirbhar Bharat, or "self-reliance India".

In contrast, Delhi claims that this is not a return to the past, but rather a renewed drive to develop indigenous industrial competence that has been hollowed out by an irresponsible embrace of globalisation. Despite withdrawing from the China-led RCEP, New Delhi is now seeking to liberalise economic relations with critical countries such as Australia. India has also increased trade negotiations with the UAE, Israel, and the United Kingdom. India and the EU have also made a political decision to restart negotiations on a long-stalled FTA. Trade economists say that bilateral agreements cannot replace bigger regional accords, of which India is currently not a member. On developing digital trade challenges, Delhi is also not on the same page as its allies such as the United States, the European Union, Japan, and Australia. Nonetheless, the strategic trade treaties currently being negotiated are a significant step in the right direction. Although India has recently engaged in aggressive military diplomacy, it has been hampered by its inability to transfer weapons to friendly states in the area. Delhi has abandoned its lengthy political hesitancy in supplying Brahmos missiles to China's neighbours. Last month, India struck a \$375 million agreement to equip the Philippines with three shore-based anti-ship Brahmos missile batteries. While these batteries will not change the military balance between Manila and Beijing, they do pave the way for a more active Indian participation in Asia's major security concerns. India's new military export push aligns with the US Indo-Pacific strategy's emphasis on "identifying new possibilities to integrate our defence industrial bases, integrating our defence supply chains, and co-producing important technology that will shore up our collective military advantages". The US goal to "empower friends and partners as they take on regional leadership responsibilities themselves" and India's desire to play a greater role in the Indo-Pacific have a lot in common. Concurrent pursuit of

enhanced national capabilities and more active engagement in coalitions are interrelated components of realising that Indian objective (Mohan). The announcement in September 2021 of AUKUS, the new trilateral defence collaboration between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, confirmed the Indo-Pacific region's centrality in modern great-power relations. Global interest in the region has increased in recent years, both geoeconomically and strategically.

China's belligerence has been increasing throughout the area. India, which is located in the heart of the Indian Ocean region and shares a 3,488-kilometre land border with China, faces both opportunities and challenges that could be pivotal to the region's geopolitical affairs, as well as difficult relationships with its two largest neighbours, China and Pakistan (Kamal and Sahni). In his address at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on June 1, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted India's vision for the Indo-Pacific region. India advocates for an Indo-Pacific order that is free, open, and inclusive, based on respect for all states' sovereignty and territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of conflicts through discussion, and adherence to international rules and laws. India's Indo-Pacific concept is inclusive in character, and it supports an approach that respects everyone's right to free navigation and overflight in international waters. The notion of 'ASEAN-Centrality' underpins India's Indo-Pacific strategy. Given the necessity for common answers to shared difficulties in the area, India's strategy is built on cooperation and collaboration. At the East Asia Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) on November 4, 2019. The IPOI, as an open global initiative, draws on existing regional cooperation architecture and mechanisms to focus on seven central pillars centred on maritime security, maritime ecology, maritime resources, capacity building and resource sharing, disaster risk reduction and management, science, technology, and academic cooperation, trade connectivity, and maritime transport. India hosted the sixth Indian Ocean Dialogue with IORA Member States on the theme "Indo-Pacific: Re-imagining the Indian Ocean through an Expanded Geography" on December 13 and 14, 2019, in addition to the eleventh Delhi

Dialogue with ASEAN Member States on the theme "Advancing Partnership in the Indo-Pacific". At both events, maritime connectivity and emerging architecture in the Indo-Pacific construct were major conversation topics. The 4th East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation was held in Chennai from February 6–7, 2020, and was hosted by India in collaboration with Australia and Indonesia.

The conference, which included attendees from EAS participating countries, covered a variety of subjects, including the blue economy and marine security. The Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Collaboration Strategy (ACMECS) is a framework for cooperation among the five Mekong subregional nations of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. It aims to create an integrated and linked Mekong community by implementing seamless ACMECS (increased physical and digital connection), synchronised ACMECS (improved trade, investment, and financial cooperation), and smart and sustainable ACMECS (enhanced human resource and environmental cooperation). India joined ACMECS as a development partner in July 2019, with Australia, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States. India is collaborating with group partners to identify suitable projects from the ACMECS Priority Projects, drawing on the USD 1 billion line of credit announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the India-ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur in November 2015 for connectivity and digital infrastructure in the ASEAN region (Center).

The Mekong-Ganga Collaboration (MGC) is a Southeast Asian sub-regional forum that was founded in 2000 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Six nations collaborated in the project: India, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. MGC ministerial meetings have taken place ten times since their beginning in 2000. In 2020, MGC will celebrate its 20th anniversary. The successful India-MGC Quick Impact Scheme, which India introduced in September 2012, focuses on initiatives with a short gestation time that may have a good impact on the community level. So far, 24 projects have been completed, including 15 in Cambodia and 9 in Vietnam. Furthermore, 11 projects are now being

implemented in Cambodia, 4 in Vietnam, and 3 in Lao PDR. Scholarship programmes granted by India to MGC member nations have found extensive use. The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is the largest intergovernmental mechanism between Asia and Europe, accounting for 60% of the global population, 65% of global GDP, and 55% of worldwide commerce. It was founded in 1996 as a venue for "informal communication" between governments from both continents. It presently has 53 partners, consisting of 51 nations and two regional organisations (ASEAN and the European Union). India joined ASEM as part of its second expansion process in 2008. The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is a regional organisation representing 22 nations in the Indian Ocean area. India is a founder member of IORA, which was founded in 1997.

The IORA Secretariat is based in Mauritius' Port Louis. East Asia Summit (EAS) The leaders-led EAS format, which was established in 2005, is the most important component of the ASEAN-led frameworks, owing to its contribution to the region's strategic trust. The 18 members of the EAS account for 54% of the global population and 58% of global GDP. The connection between India and ASEAN is a critical pillar of its foreign policy and the cornerstone of its Act East policy. India became an ASEAN strategic partner in 2012, having previously served as a sectoral partner (1992), dialogue partner (1996), and summit-level partner (2002). There are now 30 discussion platforms between India and ASEAN that span many industries. The key to taking the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership to the next level is connectivity in its broadest meaning, according to India's Act East Policy. Connectedness encompasses physical, economic, political, and interpersonal connectivity. ASEAN and India share land and marine boundaries, allowing for considerable opportunities to improve connectivity by land, air, and sea. The India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway is a long-term initiative to improve road connections between India and Southeast Asia. In order to realise the connection potential, Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered a USD 1 billion line of credit for ASEAN connectivity and infrastructure projects during the 2015 ASEAN-India Summit.

VI. COVID-19 AND INDIA'S INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infection caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Most patients infected with this virus experience mild to severe respiratory illness and typically recover without requiring specific treatment. Some, though, will get very ill and require medical treatment. People over the age of 65, as well as those with underlying medical disorders such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, or cancer, are at a higher risk of developing serious illness. Anyone of any age can become very ill or die as a result of COVID-19. Being thoroughly informed on the sickness and how the virus spreads is the greatest method to avoid and slow down transmission. Maintain a distance of one metre apart from people, wear a well-fitting mask, and wash your hands or use an alcohol-based rub often to protect yourself and others from infection.

When it's your turn, get vaccinated and follow local recommendations. When an infected person coughs, sneezes, speaks, sings, or breathes, the virus can spread in microscopic liquid particles from their mouth or nose. These particles vary in size, from large respiratory droplets to small aerosols. If you become unwell, it is vital to practise respiratory etiquette, such as coughing into a flexed elbow, and to stay at home and self-isolate until you are completely recovered ("Coronavirus"). That affected the whole globe, but how India helped its valuable neighbours will be seen. On the 13th and 14th of December, 2019, India hosted the Delhi Dialogue-XI with ASEAN Member States on the theme "Advancing Partnership in the Indo-Pacific", as well as the 6th Indian Ocean Dialogue with IORA Member States on the theme "Indo-Pacific: Re-imagining the Indian Ocean through an Expanded Geography". Both seminars focused on emerging architecture in the Indo-Pacific construct and marine connectivity. India, in collaboration with Australia and Indonesia, will hold the 4th East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation in Chennai on February 6-7, 2020.

The conference, which brought together delegates from EAS participating countries, covered a variety

of issues, including maritime security, maritime safety, and the blue economy. India and ASEAN have a free trade agreement covering commodities, services, and investment. India-ASEAN trade and investment ties have been progressively improving, with ASEAN ranking as India's fourth-largest commercial partner, worth US\$96.79 billion. Both parties have established a goal of \$200 billion by 2022. Investment flows are also large in both directions. India has implemented a variety of programmes and initiatives aimed at increasing capacity and improving people-to-people connections. Ongoing projects include exchange programmes for students, journalists, and farmers.

The External Affairs Minister and the Minister of Human Resource Development jointly announced 1000 integrated PhD fellowships for ASEAN students at IITs in September 2019. Other ongoing projects include the Space Project, which envisions the establishment of a tracking, data reception, and data processing station in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; the upgrade of the telemetry tracking and command station in Biak, Indonesia; the establishment of Centres of Excellence in Software Development & Training (CESDT) in CLMV countries; and the quick impact projects in CLMV. ASEAN countries are quickly becoming popular tourist destinations for Indians. In 2018, India accounted for 3.45 million of the 129 million international tourist visits to ASEAN. The designation of 2019 as the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism was one of many efforts taken to improve the two-way flow of tourists. The Indian diaspora in the ASEAN area, which accounts for around 20% of India's overall diaspora, is critical to improving India-ASEAN connections. India continues to contribute constructively to the EAS aims as a nation genuinely dedicated to building the EAS as an ASEAN-led organisation. Prime Minister Modi unveiled India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative during the 14th East Asia Summit in Bangkok (IPOI). India, in collaboration with Australia and Indonesia, will hold the 4th East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation in Chennai on February 6-7, 2020.

Under the auspices of IORA, India actively participates in various IORA events and sponsors a

variety of capacity-building workshops and topical seminars/conferences. In November 2019, India organised the second Somalia-Yemen Development Programme in Kochi, Kerala, to provide authorities from Somalia and Yemen with training on fisheries policy. In November 2019, India also published the first edition of the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Guidelines for IORA. India frequently makes contributions to the IORA Special Fund, the organisation's development fund. A new MGC Plan of Action (2019–2022) was adopted at the 10th MGC Foreign Ministers' Meeting on August 1, 2019, in Bangkok. It calls for project-based cooperation in the seven existing sectors of tourism and culture, education, public health and traditional medicine, agriculture and related industries, transport and communication, MSMEs, and three new sectors of water resources management, science and technology, and skill development and capacity building.

VII. CONCLUSION

This was how India supported all of its cherished neighbours during and after the COVID period. India also provided them with vaccinations as part of the Vaccination Maitri campaign, which was initiated by India. India has long advocated for a free and open Indo-Pacific, and as it grows more independent, it has come to cherish its little neighbours. Global warming and climate change are two additional serious issues. Because all of these majority states are extremely sensitive to climate change, India is also providing assistance to them. India, therefore, embraced Western ideals while modifying them in a uniquely Indian manner. India will so undoubtedly be a major force in the future in this multipolar globe. India has to grab the lead and play its own game by moving away from a defensive position and into one that is more proactive. That is the entirety of my research.

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