

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1197
ANSWERED ON- 05/12/2024

EXPANSION OF INDIA'S GLOBAL INFLUENCE

1197. SHRI MAYANKBHAI JAYDEVBHAI NAYAK

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) the ways by which India's foreign policy has evolved in terms of expanding global influence and building strategic alliances; and

(b) the ways by which Government has leveraged multilateral platforms such as the G20 and ASEAN to enhance India's influence and foster strategic partnerships?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) India's foreign policy continues to evolve to reflect its primary objectives of securing its national interests, including those of Indians living and working across the world. It is also reflected in the country's growing stature and capabilities to assume greater responsibilities on the world stage. A key focus of India's foreign policy remains its immediate and extended neighbourhood. India's historical and civilizational ties with countries in the region are guided by the 'Neighbourhood First Policy', 'Act East Policy', 'Think West Policy' and 'Connect Central Asia Policy', and Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) initiative. These policies seek to comprehensively enhance our engagement with relevant countries. India's membership of various plurilateral initiatives such as BRICS, SCO and Quad and its own leadership in establishing various international institutions, including the International Solar Alliance (ISA), the Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure (CDRI), Global Bio-fuels Alliance and the India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) also reflect the country's expanding interests and partnerships.

(b) India's relationship with ASEAN is a key pillar of our foreign policy and the cornerstone of our Act East Policy. The up-gradation of the ASEAN-India relationship into a Strategic Partnership in 2012 and Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2022 was a natural progression, reflecting the elevation of our relationship with ASEAN from Sectoral Dialogue Partner (Secretary Level) in 1992, Dialogue Partnership (Ministers' level) in 1996 and Summit Level Partnership (Leaders' level) in 2002.

Besides engagement in ASEAN +1 (India) framework, other platforms for engagement for India with the ASEAN region include other frameworks, including the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting - Plus (ADMM-Plus) and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF).

India's G20 Presidency from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023 provided an opportunity for highlighting its development initiatives and to focus on the developmental priorities and concerns of fellow Global South countries at the G20. The G20 Leaders' Declaration, adopted by consensus at New Delhi on 9-10 September 2023, reflected ambitious and action-oriented outcomes on various developmental priorities of India and the Global South countries, including accelerating progress on SDGs, green development and the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) initiative, promoting accelerated and inclusive growth, reforming multilateral institutions for the 21st century, technological transformation through deployment of digital public infrastructure and women-led development. The launching of the Global Biofuels Alliance and the India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor are reflective of the range of partnerships which India has been able to forge as part of its engagements in the G20.
