



## G-7 & India

This article is based on [“The G-7 opportunity”](#) which was published in The Indian Express on 08/06/2021. It talks about the significance of the upcoming G-7 Summit for India.

In the coming days, the summit of the [Group of Seven \(G-7\)](#) industrial countries is going to take place in the United Kingdom. In the context of Post-Covid-19 era, the summit promises to be a definitive moment in the political evolution of the Western countries as a group of nations.

Apart from this, the summit will also see the digital participation of Indian Prime Minister. For India, the G-7 summit is an opportunity to expand the global dimension of India's growing partnerships with the US and Europe.

Thus, the summit can emerge as an important step towards a new global compact between India and the West.

### G-7: Background

- The G7 was created as a consultation of industrialized economies, all of which have been democracies since the grouping's origins in 1975.
- The original G6 included the United States, Japan, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and Italy, with Canada joining to make the G7 by 1976.
- Russia participated in the G8 from 1998 to 2014 until its invasion of Ukraine's Crimea caused the group to eject it.

### Significance of G-7 Summit For India

- **America First To America is Back:** Former US President Donald Trump's "America First" policies weakened the US hegemony. Now US President Joe Biden is determined to strengthen US alliances and draw India into a new global architecture.
- **Need for a Strong G-7 Coalition:** The need for reinvigoration of G-7 emanates from the challenges put forward by increasingly aggressive China, the urgency of mitigating climate change, and the construction of a post-pandemic international order.
  - These challenges are generating an unprecedented convergence between the interests of India and the West.
- **G-7 to G-11:** Not a long time ago, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that the G-7 of the world's most developed nations was "outdated" and proposed to expand it.
  - Now, the move to invite India, Australia, South Africa and South Korea to this can be seen as a possible step onwards upgradation of G-7 to G-11.
  - The idea of a G-11 also can emerge as a global democratic coalition and India is at the very heart of this narrative.
  - Further, the proposed G-11 grouping would recognise India's place amongst the world's richest nations, and acknowledge its global voice.

- **Countering China:** India now can't escape the conclusion that China is the greatest obstacle to India's global aspirations.
  - Thus, forming a western pivot which includes strong bilateral strategic cooperation with the US, France, UK, EU as well as the **Quad** can help India counter China.
  - India is also eager to emerge as a critical node in future supply chains oriented to the democratic world, including in the area of vaccine production.
- **Easing Navigation Among Great Powers:** With Russia also invited at the G-7 summit, India now hopes that a renewed dialogue between US and Russia can lead to a relaxation of tensions between them and will ease India's navigation among the great powers.

## Associated Challenges With G-7 & India

- **Clash of Interests:** The growing convergence of interests between India and the West does not mean the two sides will agree on everything.
  - After all, there are many areas of continuing divergence within the West — from the economic role of the state to the democratic regulation of social media and the technology giants.
- **Internal Tussle Within G-7:** An evaluation of the G-7's effectiveness as a multilateral forum thus far is needed, given deep member differences on issues including climate change, security contributions, Iran, etc.
- **Emerging New Cold War:** Despite its border tensions with China, India must also consider its objectives in attending a grouping that appears aimed at fuelling a **new Cold War** between the U.S. and China.

## Conclusion

While India continues to strengthen its partnerships in Asia and the global south, a more productive partnership with the West helps secure a growing array of India's national interests and adds a new depth to India's international relations.

However, this would require sustained negotiations on converting shared interests — on reforming the global economic order, mitigating climate change, promoting greener growth, making the world immune to future pandemics, and constructing trusted supply chains — into concrete outcomes.

### ***Drishti Mains Question***

India now can't escape the conclusion that China is the greatest obstacle to India's global aspirations. In light of this statement, discuss the prospects of India joining the G-7.