



Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy

Prelims: Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA), Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

Mains: India-Canada Relations, Roadblocks in India-Canada Relations, significance of Canada's Indo Pacific Policy on India's Interests.

Why in News?

Recently, India-Canada Foreign minister's Bilateral meeting as '**India-Canada strategic Dialogue**' took place ahead of **G20** Foreign ministers' meeting in March in **New Delhi**.

- India welcomed the announcement of **Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy** given the **shared vision of a free, open and inclusive Indo pacific**.



What are the Highlights of the Meeting?

- The Ministers discussed strengthening the economic partnership, advancing security cooperation, facilitating migration and mobility, and growing our strong people-to-people ties.
- Canadian FM termed **India as a critical partner** for Canada in the Indo-Pacific. In return, Canada can be a **reliable supplier of critical minerals**, a strong **partner in the green transition** and a **major investor**.

What is the Significance of the Meeting?

- Canadian FM's visit is expected to **pave the way for a continued reset** in India-Canada ties after a freeze between 2020-2022.
 - Freeze was over a **number of issues** including **attacks on Indian-origin people and establishments by Khalistani groups** in Canada, **Canadian comments over India's farmer protests and India's cancellation of diplomatic talks in response**.
 - In 2022, New Delhi objected to Canada permitting a **Khalistani secessionist "referendum"** and hit back with an advisory against travel in Canada that warned against hate crimes.
- Apart from encouraging investment from Canadian funds, both the countries look forward to the **'Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA)'** as a first step towards **'Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)'**.
- The issue of **Khalistani activities** in Canada, which has contributed to the strained relationship between Canada and India, was **not addressed in any official statements**.
- As India's economy grows, its **strategic importance** will only increase, providing a greater opportunity for Canada and India to strengthen their relationship.
- Both countries share a **suspicion of China** and are **seeking to expand trade ties, improve supply chain resilience, and encourage greater exchange of people** between their countries.

What is Canada's Indo Pacific Policy?

- **About:**
 - Canada released a new Indo-Pacific strategy, **focusing on four regions: China, India, the North Pacific (Japan and Korea), and ASEAN**.
 - The **Indo-Pacific region is home to the largest diaspora in Canada**, with 1 in 5 Canadians having family ties to the region and **60% of Canada's international students**.
 - The strategy contains **strong words on China's challenge to the international rules-based order** and human rights, while expressing a **positive view of India's shared tradition of democracy and pluralism**.
 - However, Canada also acknowledges its dependence on China as its main export destination and recognizes the **need for cooperation with China** on issues such as climate change and health.
- **Funding:**
 - Canada's strategy includes a **funding commitment of \$1.7 billion** over five years, including **infrastructure projects, enhanced military presence, and expanded participation in regional military exercises**.
- **Objectives:**
 - Promote peace, resilience and security.
 - Expand trade, investment and supply chain resilience.
 - Invest in and connect people.
 - Build a sustainable and green future.
 - Be an active and engaged partner to the Indo-Pacific.

How are India- Canada Relations?

- **Political:**
 - India and Canada share **commonalities in Parliamentary structure and procedures**. After the general election in October 2019, Mr Raj Saini, MP from the House of Common has been appointed as the Chair of the Canada-India Parliamentary Association.
 - In India, **Canada is represented by the High Commission of Canada in New Delhi**.
 - India is represented in Canada by a **High Commission in Ottawa** and by consulates in Toronto and Vancouver.
- **Economic:**
 - Bilateral trade between India and Canada stands **at USD 6.4 billion in 2020**. In 2021, **India was Canada's 14th largest export market, and 13th largest trading partner overall**.
 - More than 400 Canadian companies have a presence in India, and more than 1,000

companies are actively pursuing business in the Indian market.

- Indian companies in Canada **are active in the field such as Information Technology, software, steel, natural resources and banking sectors.**
- **India's exports to Canada** include pharma, iron and steel, chemicals, gem and jewelry, nuclear reactors and boilers.
- Canada has **one of the world's largest resources of uranium, natural gas, oil, coal, minerals and advanced technologies in hydropower**, mining, renewable energy and nuclear energy.
- **Science and Technology:**
 - **Primary focus has been on promoting Industrial R&D (Research and Development)** and development of **new IP (Intellectual property) processes**, prototypes or products.
 - Department of Biotechnology **under IC-IMPACTS program implements joint research projects in health care, agri-biotech and waste management.**
 - IC-IMPACTS (the India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnerships to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability) is the first, and only, **Canada-India Research Centre of Excellence.**
 - Department of Earth Science and Polar Canada have started **a programme for exchange of knowledge and scientific research on Cold Climate (Arctic) Studies.**
- **Space:**
 - **ISRO and Canadian Space Agency (CSA) have signed MOUs** in the field of exploration and utilization of outer space.
 - -**ANTRIX**, the Commercial arm of **ISRO**, has launched several nanosatellites from Canada.
 - ISRO in its 100th Satellite **PSLV launched in 2018**, also flew Canadian first LEO (Low earth Orbit) satellite, from Indian spaceport Sriharikota.
- **Security and Defence:**
 - India and Canada **collaborate closely in international fora particularly through the UN, Commonwealth and G-20.**
 - A Statement of Intent (SoI) on Cooperation between DRDO and **Canada's Defence Research and Development Council has been signed in 2015.**
 - The security cooperation was further enhanced with the **Framework for Cooperation between India and Canada on Countering Terrorism in 2018.**
 - There is **substantial engagement on counter terrorism issues** particularly through the framework of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism.

What are the Key Facts about Canada?

- Canada is the **second largest country in the world** in area (after Russia), occupying roughly the northern two-fifths of the **continent of North America.**
- Canada is a **constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy**,
 - Constitutional Monarchy means that the British monarch is the head of state, but her role is mainly **symbolic and ceremonial**, while the actual governing of the country is carried out by **elected representatives and government officials.**
- The border between the United States and Canada is primarily defined by the **49th parallel north.**
- Canada has a number of lakes including **Great bear lake, Great slave lake, Winnipeg lake** and 5 great lakes on USA Border namely: **Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario.**

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. Which among the following has the world's largest reserves of Uranium? (2009)

- (a) Australia
- (b) Canada
- (c) Russian Federation
- (d) USA

Ans: (a)

Exp:

- As per the latest available data of OECD-NEA (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development - Nuclear Energy Agency)/IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency), World Nuclear Association - Australia has 30% of reserves, Kazakhstan (14%), Canada (8%), Russia (8%) and USA (1%). **Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Source: IE

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/canada-s-indo-pacific-strategy>

