



Talks Between India & NATO

For Prelims: NATO, Soviet Union.

For Mains: Bilateral Groupings & Agreements, Significance India's Relations with Other Countries.

Why in News?

It was recently reported India held its first political dialogue with the [North Atlantic Treaty Organisation \(NATO\)](#) in Brussels on December 12, 2019.

What is NATO?

- **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** is a **military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty** (also called the **Washington Treaty**) of **April 1949**, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the [Soviet Union](#).
- There are currently **30 member states**.
 - **Original Members:**
 - Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
 - **Other Countries:**
 - **Greece and Turkey** (1952), **West Germany** (1955, from 1990 as Germany), **Spain** (1982), the **Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland** (1999), **Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia** (2004), **Albania and Croatia** (2009), **Montenegro** (2017), and [North Macedonia](#) (2020).
 - France withdrew from the integrated military command of NATO in 1966 but remained a member of the organization, it resumed its position in NATO's military command in 2009.
 - Recently, **Finland and Sweden** have shown interest to join NATO.
- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium.

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What is the NATO-India Political Dialogue?

- **About:**
 - India held its first political dialogue with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in Brussels on December 12, 2019.
- **Significance:**
 - NATO has been engaging both China and Pakistan in bilateral dialogue.
 - While Engaging NATO in a political dialogue would provide India an opportunity to bring about a **balance in NATO's perceptions** about the **situation in regions and issues of concern to India**.
 - There is convergence in the perspectives of both India and NATO on China, terrorism, and Afghanistan, including **Pakistan's** role in Afghanistan.
- **Issues:**
 - According to NATO's perspective, the biggest threat it face was not China, but Russia whose aggressive actions are threatening European security.
 - Further, NATO had faced difficulties to convene meetings of the **NATO-Russia Council** due to Russian refusal to place issues such as Ukraine and Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty,
 - Given the **divergence among NATO countries**, its view on China was seen as mixed, while it did deliberate on China's rise, it presented **both a challenge and an opportunity**,
 - Further, in **Afghanistan**, NATO saw the Taliban as a political entity.

▪ **NATO'S View:**

- Dialogue with India would further enhance the cooperation among NATO countries and India's geo-strategic location shares a unique perspective and **enhances international security in India's own region and beyond.**

Source: IE

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