

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3101
ANSWERED ON- 27/03/2025

INDIA'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS TO ADDRESS EMERGING GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGES

3101. SHRI JOSE K. MANI

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

- a) the manner in which India is reinforcing its strategic partnerships to address emerging geopolitical challenges in light of recent shifts in the Indo-Pacific region;
- b) the measures taken by Government to enhance collaboration with key allies such as the United States, Japan, and Australia; and
- c) the contingency plans that are in place if these partnerships are strained by rising global tensions?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a) India envisages Indo-Pacific as a free, open, inclusive, peaceful and prosperous region built on rules-based international order, with respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, freedom of navigation and over-flight, unimpeded lawful commerce, peaceful resolution of disputes, as well as equality of all nations. With this objective, India has fostered strong bilateral and multilateral partnerships with all key partners and like-minded countries in the Indo-Pacific and beyond to ensure Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR). To give a concrete shape to our Indo-Pacific Vision, India announced the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) in 2019. India continues to calibrate its approach by deepening defence and maritime security cooperation, catalysed by economic and developmental assistance, to safeguard its interests and look forward to productive collaboration with other countries in the region and beyond.

Encompassing India's expanded strategic vision, Honourable Prime Minister outlined the MAHASAGAR doctrine i.e. "Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions" (an extension of SAGAR doctrine) in March 2025 in Mauritius. Thus, India continue its commitment to the well-being and progress of nations in the region as a first responder and a net security provider, based on our Neighbourhood First policy, MAHASAGAR outlook, and on our approach to the extended neighbourhood.

(b) & (c) India through its membership in the plurilateral framework Quad comprising of Australia, Japan and the United States seeks to uphold the international order based on the rule of law and is committed to a free and open Indo-Pacific. The Quad is harnessing all of its collective strength and resources to support the sustainable development, stability, and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region. Under Quad, initiatives like Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA), Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI), Indo-Pacific Logistics Network pilot project, Quad Ports of the Future Partnership etc. has been announced and these

initiatives are aimed at complementing the region's development priorities, accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and delivering public goods to countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

India and Japan share "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" based on the shared values of democracy, freedom and rule of law . Our convergences are built on the alignment between India's Act-East Policy, our Indo-Pacific outlook, and Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific Vision. India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership, the Clean Energy Partnership and the Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership reflect the contemporary agenda with the goal to promote reliable and resilient supply chains, trusted digital collaborations and secure green growth.

Australia and India entered into Strategic Partnership in 2009 and subsequently upgraded bilateral relationship to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in 2020. Through CSP, both countries agreed to work together in the areas of mutual cooperation. 2025 will mark 5th Anniversary of CSP. Australia is the only country with which India has three unique frameworks-Annual Leaders' Summit, 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue and Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue. Together, Australia and India explore opportunities for collaboration towards a free, open, inclusive, peaceful, prosperous and rules-based Indo-Pacific. As a part of this, India and Australia participate in several bilateral and multilateral maritime exercises like MALABAR and being Quad partners are focused on delivery of global goods for capacity building in the Indo-Pacific region. In February 2024, Australia co-hosted Indian Ocean Conference with India Foundation in Perth reflecting strategic convergence between India and Australia in the Indian Ocean. With the aim to to strengthen economic engagement among partner countries in the region, both countries are partners in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF).

Government keeps a close watch on all developments in the region that have a bearing on India's interest and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.
