

The 'Indo-Pacific' Strategic Theatre - What it precisely connotes for India? A Review of Literature

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Abstract

The twenty-first century accentuates the new conception of the 'Indo-Pacific' region seems compass's, in reality, basically term matter strategic interests for the United States, India, Japan, and Australia the economic, political, and maritime conception plunks. The area comprehends the next hotbed power strife for the like-minded, interested countries of geostrategic swivel in the century's lexicon painstakingly in the rise of global rivalries. In the return of strategic sensitivity, India is captivating reverberations putting on it. India's interests push forwards in it booms the animate partnership proximity edifice capacity in the 'Indo-Pacific' expanse. Its strategic scopes proceed beyond with a reliable rendezvous extended into the international milieu become exceptionally significant foreign policy initiatives the ever-greater efficiency by potent nations. Rightly hitherto whether or not India's assertion of impending to become a superpower nation amongst the dominant index in the world five superpowers decisive. The present research proposal discourses mainly on two focus areas – one on the considerable vision of strategies and appreciative of standing forge with giant command acquaintance in the 'Indo-Pacific' canvas theatre of India; Another one is India's forming first geostrategic fetter in the Indo-Pacific region, and how India handles its knots with powerful countries?

Keywords: India, Indo-Pacific, Strategic, Maritime, Enlargement, Opportunity,

Introduction

The Indo Pacific, also known as Indo-West Pacific or Indo - Pacific Asia, is an oceanic region of earth's oceans, comprising all of the oceans between the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans, including the Gulf of Mexico, the Arabian Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the Pacific Ocean. This region is one of the fastest-growing oceanic regions of the earth due to the growth of shipping industries, increased trade in resources and energy, and shipping lanes in the area. This region also includes many islands, such as Australia, Indonesia, China, India, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Indo-Pacific region is home to over 70% of the world's population. This region is now considered one of the world's leading trade hubs due to the continued increase in population and the high demand for goods and services.

With the strong economic linkages into East Asia, in which Northeast Asian countries (Japan, China, Korea) play a leading role, India does not want to stay outside this trend (Binh,

2015). India and China, the two Asian giants react "Great Power Status" (Karim 2017). For India, it's an accurate analysis of opportunity with East and the Far East of their trust. If India does not succumb to the game, there must be a practical implementation to ensure (Yhome 2017). New Delhi, it has "pursued a hedging strategy against China" (Boon 2016). Here the growing relations through Japan, the US, Japan, Mongolia, Taiwan, for the greater integration of military-strategic engagements raise the tension to both (Rahul 2018). Indian policies will be wary of facilitating the growing dominance of China in East Asia" (Katoch 2019) "based on broad US-India shared interests and strategies" (Singh, 2019) "are still proverbially a work in progress" (De Castro 2018). The confidential affinities with the US lift economically sturdy and enduring and gain confidence in dealing with China (Yong and Mun 2009). Modi Government more focus on the economic and maritime strategy to pursue development encouragement to East "following China's footsteps" (Gupta et al. 2019).

"India has always adopted a reactive maritime strategy towards China; however, this time around, India needs to act tough as there is little time to lose" (Upadhyaya 2017). India's "maritime-military power" projection is proactively prosperous to protect the aspiration of India's national interest and its desire to protect India's national interests (Khurana, 2017; Garge, 2017). It expands the geostrategic scope mounting accent on the "Indo-Pacific Region," which manifestly deepens Australia and Japan's relations in the growing Pacific direction (Kalita 2018). Now, India-China bilateral relations are multifaceted that converges and diverges on different sets of issues depending on their world-views (Kumar, 2020).

The growing India-Japan nexus allows the joint strategic vantage of interest in China's securitisation emerging in Pacific theatre (Chand & Garcia 2017). Japan-India has swapped the perception from "mutual apathy to trust and cooperation" (Basu 2014). The growing proximity to the "US, Japan, has emerged as India's most reliable regional ally" (Singh & Yamamoto, 2016). The specific word "trust" is core in a renewed phase of India-Japan (Borah, 2019). India-Japan "2+2 ministerial dialogue" typifies a sincere level of shared faith and judgment of them." But it would largely depend on symmetries response of enduring "its politico-military relations with India and Japan (Anand 2014). India expected long-term trade and investment, improving its economic potential. Japan attracts in advancing the backbone for robust industrial growth to provide concessional loans to infrastructure development with Japanese companies (Mukherjee 2018). "Japan is ranks 16th as India's trading partner" (Ganapathi, 2015). In "Japan is Back," concept India compliments a partner.

India-South Korea has taken significant rests in political and security reciprocities, developed a robust economic partnership that exhibits many strategic interests shared (Brewster 2010). "India values South Korea's economic capacities as a trade partner, investor, technology transferor, aid donor, and a strategic industrial partner. It is not surprising that this bilateral economic cooperation is very similar to that of India and Japan, albeit to a lesser extent." The private sector is more oriented in India, the reputed global brands from South Korean- Samsung Phone, Life's Good (LG) Electronics, and Hyundai Motors, converted in-house yields (Paik & Kumar, 2019). In reality, both nations waited for the dramatic transformation in refreshing economic growth (Dhawan, 2018). India's relations with South Korea not beyond political and economic rendezvous, but India will not be hesitant and waited for strategic maritime interests.

Following the relations was restored by Linking India-China mid-1970s, India became prudent and vestiges, creating more intimate ties with Taiwan (Tripathi & Deepak, 2016). India-Taiwan relations will require shedding our standard perspective towards Taiwan and expanding the connection pragmatically (Singh, 2019). India's focus on Taiwan's current coverage outreach

strategy (Karackattu, 2019). Terming bilateral relations as 'strategic,' India has taken the diplomatic initiative to redefine the astoundingly. New Delhi and Ulaanbaatar have a stout tactical dimension, and there is a historical and cultural bond. India and Mongolia connections are greater cooperation in economic, political, social, cultural, and safety areas. The connection between the two can endeavour the untapped regional availability by stronger effective cooperation.

India's re-engaging eastward mainly focuses on developing new strategic partners and developing investment and trade opportunities and reached to evolve into a multilayered strategy with 'Pacific Oceanic' partner Australia (Ollapally, 2018) and also with New Zealand and Fiji. Australia perceives India "from the Indo-Pacific region" as an apt economic partner. The circumstance, fostering stronger ties with India, would enable Australia to hedge against some economic and safety adversity" (Potlapalli, 2015). India-Australia has raised its own defence relation, focusing on the perspicacity (Pandit & Basu, 2014). India's strategic partnership with Australia, established in 2009, was updated into a design for Security Cooperation in 2014 (Muni & Mishra, 2019). "Defence White Paper of May 2013" stated the appearance of India "as a significant, diplomatic and economic actor, looking east and becoming more engaged in regional frameworks" (Khurana, 2019) given priority.

India, with New Zealand engagement, is yet untapped. Both countries have a huge range to collude and demand, such as in encompassing economic, broad of matters, political clout, strategic marine approach, and the desire to closer security partnerships at the emerging barriers from "traditional and non-traditional threats in the Indo-Pacific region" (Sharma, 2014). India can, and ought to, occupy a prominent rank in the peripheral concern of New Zealand's reorientation towards Asia. India shares several shared interests and concerns and increases the significance of membership from the 'Indo-Pacific' region (Rolls, 2017).

It's a known fact Fiji occupies one a kind and imperative location because of the powerful presence of Diaspora. In November 2014, Prime Minister Modi had seen Suva and greeted, and Address as the first chief to "newly re-opened and re-invigorated" Parliament. India hosted a notable gather "Regional India- Pan-Pacific Meeting with 14 South Pacific Island Leaders", where many steps Declared to strengthen far-outreaching states to that Pacific area (Ganapathi, 2015). Pacific Islands and wants to be at the forefront of world problems and trends; this includes turning to India and China for economic exchanges and other foreign affairs. The most recent coup supplied India's incredible prospect of adhering to the small country and revealing its allegiance to Fiji. India may have been condemned globally for continuing to participate with the new regime in 2006 and 2007. Fiji responded by ratcheting up Indo-Fijian relations and making their interactions people, a milestone in Fijian governmental in the international strategic Plan, India-Fiji surprisingly welcomes others to share and re-evaluate the Confidence in executing the financial potentialities in the forefront abling To solve world problems and tendencies as in Pacific Oceania.

Literature Review:

There are copious textbooks and research works have done on India in the Indo-Pacific imperative:

In the book "Asia's New Geopolitics: Essays on Reshaping the Indo-Pacific," Michael R. Asulin (2020) examines a modernizing India risks missing out on the energies and talent. It is potentially hampering the broader role it can play globally, including other powers for global power. He also pleads decisive upshots transforming the full world and the "Indo-Pacific."

Prabir De (2020), in "Act East to Act Indo-Pacific: India's Expanding Neighbourhood" considers the "Act East" now gaining mutated toward to "Act Indo-Pacific." His best judgment should be the direction for India's expanding neighbourhood definite sagacity Act East to Act the 'Indo-Pacific.' He presents short essays on several critical appearances of economic relations and intricacies that persisted in the post-Act East Policy periods by India.

The construct of India in the Indo-Pacific it seems, in reality, from the title "Evolving Geopolitics of Indo-Pacific Region: Challenging and Prospects" of Subhasish Sarangi (2019) enlightenment India in the Pacific and focuses on the advancement of economic and security cooperation in the "Indo-Pacific Region." It also highlights that Indo-Pacific has seemed like a strategic pivot in evolving 'balance power.'

And "From the Contest to Cooperation: A Vision for Shared Prosperity in the Indo-Pacific Region," by Rajiv Narayanan and Sharad Tewari (2018), more understand in the global power squad the "Indo-Pacific Region" identify as the canvas. It also brought changeably on security perspective challenges, potential in economic mapping, and construction economic integration and collective security in the region.

Randall Doyle (2013), in his book "The Geopolitical Power shift in the Indo-Pacific Region: America, Australia, China, and Triangular Diplomacy in the Twenty-First Century" scaffold as the progress of the 'twenty-first century,' the 'Indo-Pacific' is enduring an unprecedented change in affecting political clout, economic expansion, social shifts, military build-ups, and technological headways.

The new perception of the Indo-Pacific imagination, Rajiv K. Bhatia and Vijay Sakhuja (2014), work to identify that the traditional sovereign restrictions command shift to the constitutive formulation. So in the "Indo-Pacific Region: Political and Strategic Prospects," consider the geopolitical imagination geographic constructs of 'Indo-Pacific.' The over-arching geographical vision and the importance of viability perception of the Indo-Pacific are unique definitions of new politico-security expectancy. In the global power rivalries, the Indo-Pacific presents challenges in economic, political, and maritime realms.

M.H. Rajesh and Raj Kumar Sharma (2017), in the edited book "Strategic Balance in the Indo-Pacific Region: Challenge and Prospect," bring mutually diverging aspects of security dares, flattening of economic potential, and intending constructions for collective debenture and economic assimilation in the Pacific region. The different stakeholders showing the sincerer interest like Japan, Australia, Russia, India, South Korea, and ASEAN countries are engaging as a balance of power pursuer. The United States and China assert to maintain a status quo, and impersonating significant power strives to carve out the region's power.

The 'Indo-Pacific Region' under construction but becomes the center of the new impulse and pivotal site of the world in the twenty-first century. The great-power nations are creating new partners, coalitions, alliances, and allies seeking common enthusiasm for their national interest perspectives. Timothy Doyle and Dennis Rumley (2019), in "The Rise and Return of Indo-Pacific," explore in the regional security construction the Indo-Pacific region identify as an ambiguous and hotly contested. It is also judgments how China reacted to India's presence and the United States' positions in the Indo-Pacific region.

In "The Indo-Pacific Region," Gurpreet S. Khurana (2018) believes may refer to the Indo-pacific as 'Renaissance 2.0', which constitutes the maritime underbelly of Asia. The Indo-Pacific region occupies from Africa's eastern shores and Asia's west to countries of western Pacific littoral. It is not only for the single regional aspects but concerning the rest of the global affairs, and the region understands it enriched with enormous prospects.

Ashok Kapur (2019) explores in "Geopolitics and the Indo-Pacific Region" significant in the twenty-first century of the Indo-Pacific region's geopolitics structure potentiality hub of the global economic scenario, diplomatic ventures, military tricky, and cultural activities. It also understands the power shift from the west to the east, highlighting its historical importance and expanding connectivity linking the Asia-Pacific to the Indo-Pacific areas.

"Rise of the Indo-Pacific: Perspectives, Dimensions and Challenges," book edited by Chintamani Mahapatra (2019), includes the perspectives of the significance of powers construction in the Indo-Pacific. Analyses critical regional security concerns, such as sovereignty issues in the 'South China Sea,' the rise of QUAD, soft power positions, challenges to ASEAN centrality and regionalism, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, environmental degradation, and drug trafficking, and health hazards. India is raising the economic powerhouse and the influential political actor in the world milieu in the new perception region, especially in Asian cases. The development of self-confidence significantly requires erosion from power politics like ASEAN used to display its image as a triumphant political grouping in a region, despite the diversity in terms of the political system, economic philosophy, religious beliefs, and socio-cultural traditions.

Axel Berkofsky and Sergio Miracola (2019) presents in the "Geopolitics by Other Means: The Indo-Pacific Reality," the United States, Japan, Australia, and India ought chosen to combine strengths and scale-up in political stamina, economic engagement, and security cooperation in the change of perception from Asia-Pacific to Indo-Pacific region. China's 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI) as no longer in the game in the Pacific region, which is a challenge and redemption against the Beijing policymakers' and ready for better fierce compete; the information emanating from the Washington, Tokyo, Canberra, and New Delhi is precise.

The editors Pradeep Kaushiva and Abhijit Singh (2014) at "Geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific," the express term Indo-Pacific, ought subscribed to the geostrategic thesaurus as a replacement for the more extended launch rendition of the Asia-Pacific. Labeled within interspersed tactical conformity, which most fascinates shift in power and attraction of west to east, the notion has overlooked strategic debates and discussion. It's Indo-Pacific that appears practically a substantial vital extent and theatre regarding the generous dynamism contest. The unique expression Indo-Pacific used increasingly worldwide strategic and geopolitical discourse lately.

In "The Indo-Pacific Axis: Peace and Prosperity or conflict?" Satish Chandra and Baladas Ghoshal (2018) cite the states that are part of this area though nations are tangent to either beyond the Indo-Pacific area. Nonetheless, authorities are adjacent to the seas searching for a mechanism beneath a rule-based arrangement commented on the army modernization, particularly of those naval forces of many powers nationwide purposes of power prominence. Moreover, the intention to construct anchorages in strategic places is to worsen the fabulous arms competition in the unique Indo-Pacific region. China's significant development is raising military strength, and economic colossus has caused an ensuing change of global politics in connections toward Asia pivot. It also presents questions over the escalation of tensions and uncertainty in the achievement of peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region in a more significant way.

The Indo-Pacific that crosses the Western Pacific Ocean into the Western Indian Ocean simultaneously, the eastward shore of Africa raised critical geostrategic areas for trade and investment, energy, collaboration, including competition, Mohan Malik (2014), in the edited volume "Maritime Security from the Indo-Pacific: Perspective in China, India, and the United

States," develops traditional methods on focusing on behavioural challenges, transitional safety issues, and multilateral institution-building and collaboration. And clarify the possibilities and dangers inside the region also individuality specific naval steps necessary boost in maritime security. The U.S., China, and India initiate maritime safety and summarises various naval issues in the region. Despite distinct interests, abilities, and preclude, these countries can collaborate to take care of transitional safety challenges. Further clarifies how to promote marine cooperation by strengthening or establishing multilateral approaches and steps that can lessen uncertainties in advancing battle from the Indo-Pacific region.

Throughout the previous two decades, burgeoning transitional commerce, investment, and manufacturing linkage developed in Indo-Pacific amidst India and Pacific Oceans. The appearances of the Indo-Pacific region, the interaction, and interdependence of area have captured world leaders or political leaders as the potential impact of the global arrangement. Now, as a political discourse, the region progressively seems in the international analysis. Priya Chacko (2016) from the edited "New Regional Geopolitics from the Indo-Pacific: passengers, Dynamics and Consequences" studies about geopolitics, international relations, geoeconomics, regionalism, and international relations the development of this Indo-Pacific concept in various national settings, together with crucial ideas of and in reflecting on national and global drivers and foreign policy arguments of perception across the United States, Australia, India, Indonesia, and Japan. They also assess why the thought has caught policy analysts and policymakers' imaginations within those states and evaluate the consequences of rival explanations cooperation and conflict Indo-Pacific sphere. Plus, it comprehends the Indo-Pacific Region is that the canvas of their worldwide power change. The Indo-Pacific seems to be a global canvas shift of power change.

David Scott's (2012) research discourses the strategic convergence importance of India and the United States. In the Indo-Pacific, which predominantly focuses on maritime engagement, security significance, and the region's strategic balancing that spot the challenge with China in the Pacific.

The research of Rahul Roy-Chaudhury and Kate Sullivan de Estrada (2018) studied India's maritime interest and strategy. Most importantly, engagement in the Indo-Pacific region India remains to continue rhetorical, economic, and diplomatic.

Raghavendra Mishra (2014) studied India's Involvement rather than Entanglement in the Indo-Pacific Region. it is better to involve in politics–diplomacy–economics–security and not to follow the rigid straight line but best to serve as a 'functional transactional approach.'

Monish Tourangbam (2014), in the research, argues that India's capabilities and aspiration and confidence in the strategic autonomy with other countries challenge the new concept of the geopolitical and geo-economic construct of the Indo-Pacific region.

In the Indo-Pacific security and adjustment Arvind Kumar (2014) find the way for India to overcome irresponsibility, now it's time to play an emerging role and proactive eyeing on the robust assuming of responsibilities of strategic orientations.

Objective of the Study

To reduce the prospect for conflicts, the fostering and posture more exciting collaboration, building peace and stability, and security bonds are required of long-run vision in the Indo-Pacific region, an imperative role to partake herein.

Methodology and Data Collection

The research has followed the descriptive and analytical methods. To make an analytical study followed the descriptive method. The data have been collected from the use of both primary and secondary sources for the paper. The primary data were collected from Government documents, publications, and reports of India, such as Annual Report and Year Reviews of Ministry of External Affairs, Texts of Documents of Foreign Policy of India, Annual Reports and Publication of Ministry of Defence and Ministry of States Affairs. The widely significant keynotes address delivers, speeches, statements of Prime Minister of India, Ministers of External Affairs, Chief Ministers and Ministers of States, Foreign Secretaries as primary sources of the study. Different MoU, Accords, and Agreements research between the Government of India international countries apply for data collection and resolutely analysed.

The Secondary data and source of information have been collected from different books, published International and National Journals, International and National Seminar papers, newspapers, occasional papers and lectures, working papers, discussion papers, internet sources of relevant articles, different events, and records of Asian digests, etc. were analysed.

Concluding Remarks of India's value in Indo-Pacific Region

The 'Indo-Pacific Region' swathe gigantic strategic concern anticipates a blending of the 'Indian Ocean Region' and 'Asia Pacific Region,' which elongates West Asia and Eastern seashores of Africa littoral realms of western Pacific. The momentum of a new conception of the 'Indo-Pacific Region' ascertains the canvas theatre in the twenty-first-century global shift.

The geo-strategic implication of the Indo-Pacific region is that its countries are quite well connected and with Asia. It is indeed the largest economic region in the world. Therefore, a stable and peaceful region has been the main motive for many countries to develop their infrastructure, especially those in the region like Singapore and China.

The region's largest economy, Australia, also has developed a strong relationship with Australia's neighbors, like Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and India. Australia has maintained a high level of diplomatic relations with all of them. Many people have said that if Australia and India ever do come together, it would be great and beneficial. However, India has its own agenda on the Indo-Pacific region that needs to be considered.

India has been working very hard in the Indo-Pacific region to gain political influence and power. India has been trying to develop its regional trade through the South Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (RCEP), which it plans to join. India was already quite involved in the Indo-Pacific region to provide financial aid to developing countries in that region. Therefore, it can give its full attention to other areas in the region where economic development is needed. If so, the other nations will be willing to develop and expand their economies.

There is no doubt that China is the biggest player in the region, and they are already very much involved in the economic sphere of the Indo-Pacific region. Thus, there is no doubt that there will be a lot of competition between the two countries. However, countries in the region have realized the importance of cooperation with China to enhance its growth. Many people said that China's development process had been slowed down due to the countries' resistance that does not want to lose their power. It would indeed be good if there would be more cooperation between India and China because both countries can play a big role in this region's future. Both countries need to help each other in their development. Besides, there is no doubt that India and China have similar values. It would be good if they would agree to terms of the region's development in a more unified way.

In this case, geo-strategy should be more than just about getting one's way through to the advantage of one country. One should also keep the interests of other nations in mind. In many ways, this geo-strategy will be similar to the US's strategy during the Cold War era in that we needed to get our way through to the benefit of the American people. However, things have changed, and now the US also uses geo-strategy to the world's advantage.

The geo-strategy should be used to protect the interests of the people of this region and the interests of other nations. Many countries like Singapore, the Philippines, and even China are looking for a good trading relationship with India. Thus, this would be a win-win situation for everyone. Geo-strategy is also important to the prosperity and future of the world. The world economy depends on globalization and trade, so it is a great opportunity for everyone.

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