

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

06-05-23

The horizon for India beyond the G-20, SCO summits

- Source: The Hindu

Prelims:- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's Interests

Mains:- India's role in global politics as the president of G20 and SCO

Context:- India's year-long presidency of the G-20, and leadership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), should not blind us to the persisting challenges the nation faces, due to a concatenation of circumstances. Therefore, it needs to lower the lofty hopes that leading the two summits will bring it a big windfall.

Drawback

- Global peace, on which India's Prime Minister had waxed eloquent at the last G-20 summit in Indonesia, is nowhere in sight with India holding the reins.
- Instead, everything points to a further deterioration in the geo-political climate, and to a distinct possibility of impending conflict.
- Priorities listed by India as signifying its presidency, viz., climate change, clean energy, sustainable developmental programmes and reform of multilateral institutions, are likely to take a back seat, given the deteriorating global situation. Consequently, hopes of reaping a rich dividend from the summitry may be misplaced.
- The lack of trust between the opposing camps headed by the United States and China/Russia respectively, leaves limited options for countries like India that have not pledged allegiance to either side.
- India is facing threats from China at the Sino-Indian border, which is also displaying its naval power in East and Southeast Asia, and launching diplomatic-cum-strategic offensives across Asia.

- India is also facing challenges from its immediate neighbourhood, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.
- India’s relationship with Russia is uncertain, particularly due to its growing defence cooperation with the US and strains in the Russia-China relationship.

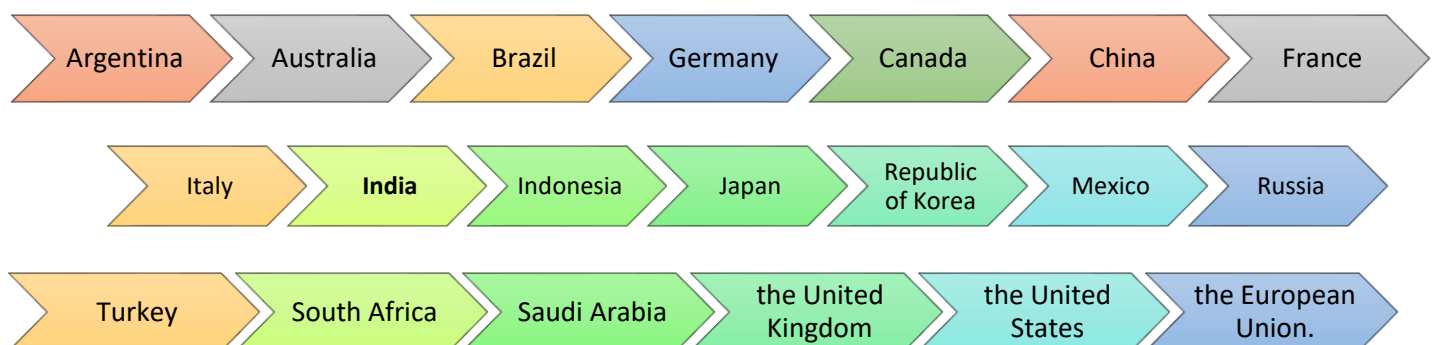
Conclusion

India also needs to be aware that the importance of the G-20 appears to be declining in today’s world. The SCO seems to have somewhat greater traction. During its presidency of the two institutions, India may well be called upon to chart a course that balances the contradictory demands of the G-20 and the SCO — and even more so that of the Global South. All this leaves little room for grandstanding, and India should proceed with caution.

G20

- The G20 or **Group of Twenty** is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries and the **European Union (EU)**
- The G20 is composed of most of the world’s largest economies, including both industrialized and developing nations, and accounts for around 90% of gross world product (GWP), 75–80% of international trade, two-thirds of the global population, and roughly half the world’s land area
- The G20 was **founded in 1999** in response to several world economic crises
- Since 2008, it has convened at least once a year, with summits involving each member’s head of government or state, finance minister, foreign minister, and other high-ranking officials; the EU is represented by the European Commission and the European Central Bank

Members

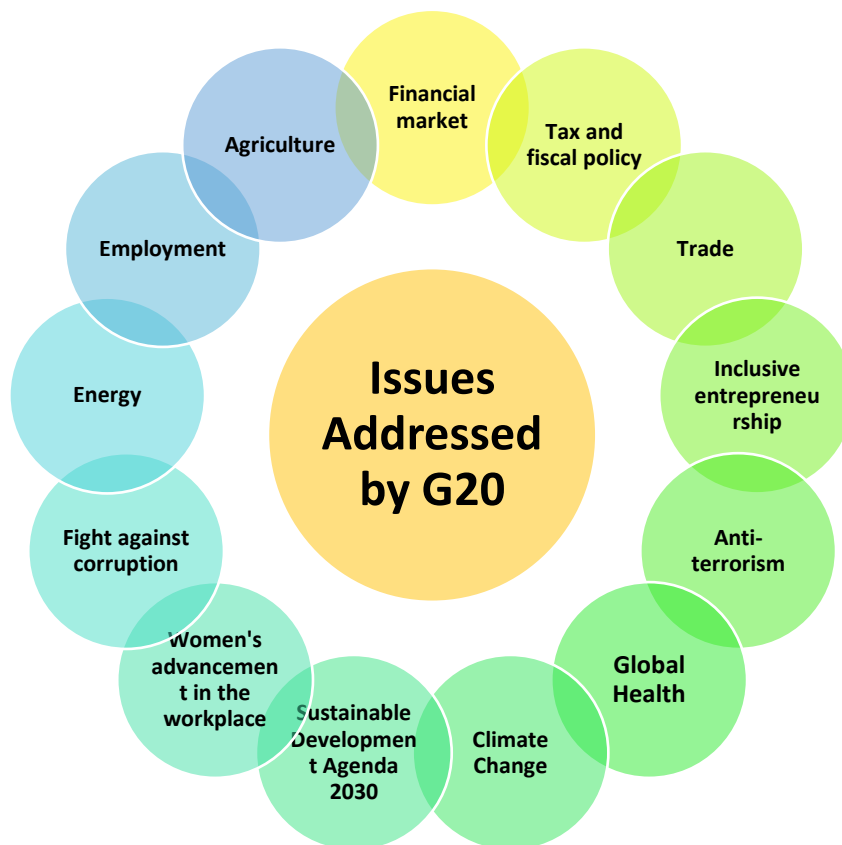


Works of G20

- The G20's work is split into **two tracks**:
 - All talks involving G20 finance ministers and central bank governors and their deputies are part of the finance track. They meet numerous times a year to discuss monetary and fiscal concerns, as well as financial rules.
 - The Sherpa track focuses on broader topics like political engagement, anti-corruption, development, and energy, among others.
- Each G20 country is represented by a Sherpa, who plans, guides, implements, and so on behalf of the country's leader. (Shaktikanta Das, an Indian Sherpa, represented India at the G20 in Argentina in 2018).

Issues Addressed by G20

The G20 focuses on a broad agenda of global issues; while issues related to the global economy dominate the agenda, other items have become more prominent in recent years, such as:



Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

- SCO is a **permanent intergovernmental international organization**.
- It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organization aiming to **maintain peace, security and stability** in the region.
- It was created in **2001**.
- The SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and entered into force in 2003.

Origin

- Prior to the creation of SCO in 2001, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan were members of the Shanghai Five.
- Shanghai Five (1996) emerged from a series of border demarcation and demilitarization talks which the four former Soviet republics held with China to ensure stability along the borders.
- Following the accession of Uzbekistan to the organization in 2001, the Shanghai Five was renamed the SCO.
- India and Pakistan became members in 2017.
- On 17th September, 2021, it was announced that Iran would become a full member of the SCO.

Membership:



Objectives:

- Strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among the member states.
- Promoting effective cooperation in -politics, trade & economy, research & technology and culture.
- Enhancing ties in education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection, etc.

- Maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region.
- Establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new international political & economic order.