

CENTRE FOR LAND WARFARE STUDIES AND GUNNERS SHOT

TEN-DAY LECTURE SERIES

CONCEPT NOTE

India's Strategic Landscape: A Net Assessment of Ten Key Countries

Convergences, Divergences, Opportunities and Challenges for India

Background and Rationale

India's strategic environment is being reshaped by intensifying major-power competition, regional conflicts, economic realignments, technological change and the growing influence of middle powers. As India expands its diplomatic, economic and security footprint, its relationships with strategically important countries increasingly combine cooperation, competition and differing national priorities.

Against this backdrop, the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) and Gunners Shot propose a Ten-Day Lecture Series titled "India's Strategic Landscape: A Net Assessment of Ten Key Countries." The series will examine Vietnam, the Philippines, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Brazil, Myanmar, Indonesia, Israel and Türkiye, with one country covered each day by a subject expert.

The purpose is to move beyond conventional country profiles and bilateral-relations discussions. Each lecture will assess the country's strategic orientation, capabilities, regional role and foreign-policy priorities through the lens of India's national interests. The central focus will be on identifying where interests converge, where they diverge, and what strategic opportunities or challenges each country presents for India.

Aim

To undertake a focused net assessment of ten strategically significant countries and evaluate their present and emerging implications for India's security, foreign policy, economic interests and geopolitical ambitions.

Core Analytical Framework

1. **Strategic Profile:** Political trajectory, economic capacity, military capabilities, strategic geography and regional influence.
2. **Foreign-Policy Orientation:** Key external relationships, major-power alignments and regional or global ambitions.

3. **Convergence with India:** Shared interests in defence, security, trade, technology, energy, connectivity, maritime affairs and multilateral cooperation.
4. **Divergence with India:** Areas where policies, alignments, regional ambitions or strategic interests differ or compete.
5. **Challenges for India:** Developments that may constrain India's security, diplomatic space, economic interests or regional influence.
6. **Opportunities for India:** Areas where India can deepen cooperation, expand its strategic footprint or leverage emerging geopolitical openings.
7. **Future Outlook:** Likely trajectory over the next five to ten years and the policy choices it may require from India.

Countries and Indicative Strategic Focus

Sl.No	Country	Indicative Strategic Focus for India
1	Vietnam	Indo-Pacific, South China Sea, defence cooperation, China and Act East Policy
2	Philippines	Maritime security, South China Sea, defence cooperation and India's Indo-Pacific role
3	Japan	Quad, Indo-Pacific order, technology, infrastructure, economic security and defence cooperation
4	Saudi Arabia	Energy security, investment, defence cooperation, West Asian geopolitics and Vision 2030
5	Egypt	Red Sea and Suez Canal, maritime connectivity, defence cooperation, Africa and West Asia
6	Brazil	BRICS, Global South, strategic autonomy, trade, agriculture and multilateral cooperation
7	Myanmar	Border security, Northeast India, internal conflict, China, connectivity and Act East Policy, Rare earth elements
8	Indonesia	ASEAN, Indian Ocean, maritime security, strategic autonomy and economic cooperation
9	Israel	Defence and security partnership, technology, innovation and changing West Asian geopolitics
10	Türkiye	Regional ambitions, defence industry, Pakistan relationship, strategic competition and selective cooperation

Strategic Logic of the Series

The selection deliberately brings together close strategic partners, important regional powers and countries with which India has more complex or divergent interests. Japan, Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia are important to India's Indo-Pacific and maritime strategy. Myanmar directly connects India's foreign policy with border security, Northeast India and Act East connectivity. Saudi Arabia, Israel and Egypt are central to India's expanding engagement with West Asia. Brazil is an

important partner in BRICS and the Global South, while Türkiye offers a useful case of a relationship where economic engagement coexists with significant strategic and political divergences.

Key Questions

1. What is the country's present strategic position and where is it headed?
2. Where do its national interests converge with India's interests?
3. Where do the two countries' interests diverge or potentially compete?
4. What strategic opportunities and challenges does the country present for India?
5. How should India shape its engagement with the country over the next decade?

Expected Outcome

The lecture series will provide a comparative, interest-based assessment of ten countries that are increasingly consequential to India. It will identify areas where India can deepen strategic cooperation, relationships that require careful management, emerging risks requiring policy attention and opportunities that can strengthen India's regional and global position.

By applying a common net-assessment framework, the series will contribute to a more realistic understanding of India's external strategic environment, one in which partnerships and divergences often coexist.

Conclusion

As India's interests become increasingly global, a clear assessment of the capabilities, intentions and strategic trajectories of key countries is essential. This series seeks to examine not simply how India relates to these states today, but how their evolving choices may affect India's national interests in the years ahead. The emphasis throughout will remain on convergence, divergence, strategic opportunity, emerging challenges, and the policy options available to India.