Indo-Pacific Strategy of Canada

Why in news?

Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar for the India-Canada Strategic Dialogue in Delhi.

Why is Melanie Joly's visit so significant?

- The two Ministers expressed interest in deepening collaboration across domains and look forward to the **Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA).**
- India welcomed Canada's Indo-Pacific strategy, given the shared vision of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- India's growing strategic, economic, and demographic importance makes it a critical partner for Canada in the Indo-Pacific.
- In return, Canada can be a reliable supplier of critical minerals, a strong partner in the green transition and a major investor**.**

What is Canada's Indo-Pacific strategy about?

Canada is the last G7 nation to embrace the concept of the Indo-Pacific and 20% of its population originates in the Indo-Pacific region.

- **Fund** - The strategy contains a funding commitment of US $1.7 billion over 5 years.
- **Area** - It is spread over infrastructure projects through the US-led **G7 Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment.**
- It allocates 403 million dollar for an enhanced military presence in the Indian Ocean, and expanded participation in regional military exercises.
- **Objectives**
  - Promote peace, resilience and security
  - Expand trade, investment and supply chain resilience Invest in and connect people
  - Build a sustainable and green future
  - Be an active and engaged partner to the Indo-Pacific

What about Canada-India relations?

The immigrants from India account for at least 1.4% of the population of Canada.

- **Common Values** - Shared values of democracy, pluralism, expanding economic engagement, regular high level interactions and long-standing people-to-people ties.

- **Development Cooperation** - As of 2021, Canada invested nearly $24 million in 2018-2019 to support 75 projects in India via Grand Challenges Canada.
- **Nuclear Agreements** - The **Appropriate Arrangement (AA)** for the NCA was signed in 2013, under which a Joint Committee on Civil Nuclear Cooperation was constituted.
- **Security and Defence** - India and Canada collaborate closely in international for the UN, Commonwealth and G-20.
- **Science and Tech** - ISRO and Canadian Space Agency (CSA) have signed MOUs in the field of exploration and utilisation of outer space.
- **ANTRIX** has launched several nanosatellites from Canada.

What are the challenges in the bilateral relation?

- The big issue for India is the safe haven that Canada has been for separatist Khalistani groups.
- In 2022, New Delhi objected to Canada permitting a Khalistani secessionist referendum in the Sikh diaspora, and hit back with an advisory against travel in Canada that warned against hate crimes.

References

1. The Indian Express|Canada's Indo-Pacific strategy
2. The Hindu|India, Canada FMs discuss reset in ties with Indo-Pacific strategy

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