

As the gravity is shifting towards Indo-Pacific, India can collaborate with Atlantician powers that is Europe to balance Chinese threat in the region.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)'s last year report accepted China as a potential threat, similarly Chinese expansionist policy in the region specially in Ladakh, is paving the way for Indo-Europe cooperation.

Common Interest

(i) Democracy - Europe and India along with many Indo-Pacific nations like Australia have common agenda of democracy, and China's recent steps like in Hong Kong is against this agenda.

(ii) Human Rights - China is accused of violating HR in Uighur Muslims, India

and EU have consistent approach of safeguard human rights.

(iii) expansionist china and peace & security of Indo pacific

(i) chinese belt and road initiative is a debt trap mechanism;

(ii) chinese aggression in south ~~North~~ china sea is threatening ASEAN countries,

(iii) many european bases in the region like france & britain are aware of their compromising interest.

(iv) The region is a choke point of 70% of world trade.

(v) India has dominant position in Indo pacific and recently france has been included into INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION.

Challenges and way forward

i) Land border - only India shares land borders with China, and had to adopt more sensitive non aggressive Indo Pacific policy.

ii) Economic dependence - European countries like Italy, Greece heavily depend on China, and most of them are member of BRI.

→ for this QUAD can be expanded to

include France.

→ malacca exercise should also include major players of Europe.

iii) Russia factor - Being a tested ally of India and Europe, Russia is against Indo Pacific policy.

India has to make more diplomatic efforts to neutralise Russia.

Thus, for peace, security, democracy and prosperity India & EU can co-ordinate for Free & Fair Indo Pacific region.