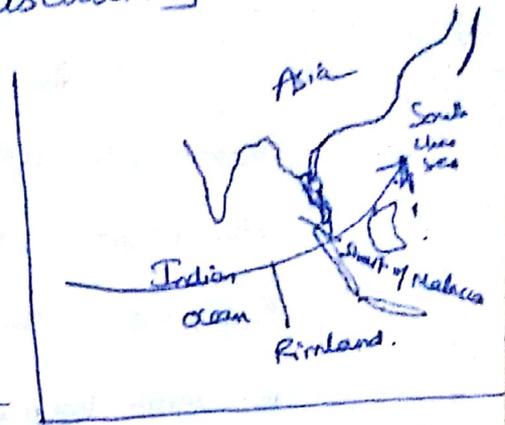


7. Discuss the relevant options for India to withstand the Chinese muscularity in South China sea.

- The strategic location of South China sea in the Rimland (which has the huge potential to become



future powercentre) stimulates the race among the world powers to have a control over South China sea in which China has been in lead with various measures.

- There are various geopolitical conflicts in the region such as Improper demarcation of maritime boundary which leads to claim of various islands by the parties in the region (Eg: Scarborough - Philippines vs China), thus each nation in the region has been in state of strengthening their military might.

- Since it was the region of neighbourhood for India it too have to play some valuable role for the stability of the region.

What kind of role can India play in the region?

Defense:

- India should continue its defense diplomacy (military exercises, exchanges, coordinated patrol) in the region.

Eg: Samudra Shakti - Naval exercise between Indonesia and India.

- The request of 'Brahmos' missile by Indonesia and Vietnam can be looked seriously

Economy

- The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership agreement with Indonesia can be extended with other friendly neighbours such as Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam etc, it will be much helpful since India came out from RCEP negotiations.

- Economic diplomacy should be carried out by keeping in mind about the 'Act East Policy'

The Gujral doctrine which is about the strengthening neighbourhood principle can be extended to maritime neighbours also which can make India to play the role as Big brother.