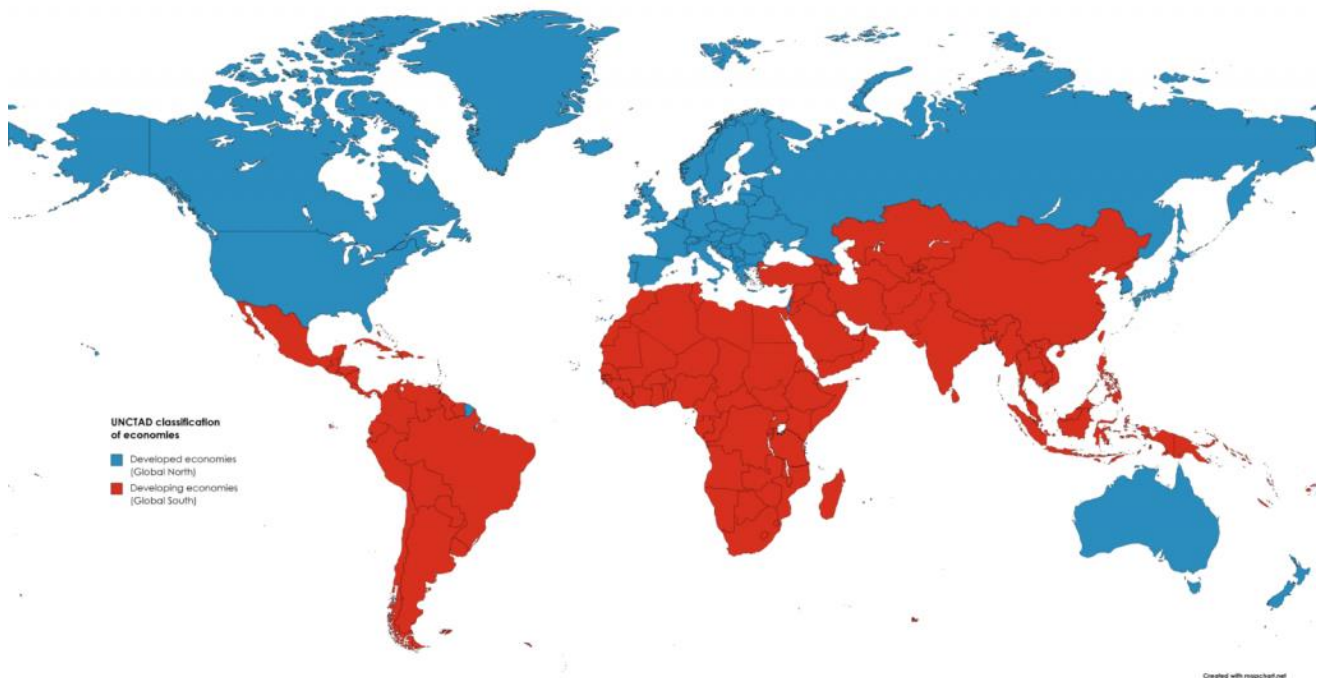


UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS Paper 2 International Relations – Global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.

Who are the Global South?

The term "Global South" refers to countries often characterized as developing, less developed, or underdeveloped, primarily situated in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. These nations face higher levels of poverty, income inequality, and challenging living conditions compared to the wealthier nations of the Global North, which are mainly located in North America and Europe, with some additions in Oceania and elsewhere.



Historical Background:

The term Global South gained prominence possibly through its usage by **Carl Oglesby**. However, it became widely recognized due to the Willy Brandt Report, which underscored the stark disparities in living standards between the North and the South, demarcated by the Brandt Line. Over the last four decades, the term has gained popularity as a reference to "**developing countries**."

Variations Within Global South Countries:

Analyzing data on population and per capita income of the 50 most populous Global South nations (with over 20 million population) reveals significant variations:

1. Population Levels:

- Four out of the five most populous nations globally are in Asia, including China and India.

2. Economic Growth:

- Asian economies, particularly in East Asia, have experienced rapid growth in recent decades and are expected to continue this trend.

3. Income Levels:

- Latin American countries, except Venezuela, are categorized as upper-middle or high-income.
- African nations within the Global South generally exhibit lower per capita income, with seven out of 20 countries having incomes below \$1,000.

4. Conflict Situation:

- Some large African nations, such as Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Sudan, have been marred by prolonged civil conflicts.
- Civil conflicts have also hindered development in certain Asian nations, including Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Myanmar.

Influence in World Affairs: While the Global South lags behind the Global North in terms of power, wealth, and technology, its influence in world affairs is evolving:

1. Increased Participation:

- Global South nations are establishing forums within significant North-created international institutions like the IMF, WTO, and UN agencies.

2. Increased Cooperation:

- Creation of membership-limited organizations within the Global South, such as OPEC, ASEAN, and the African Union, has enhanced cooperation and enabled effective representation of members' interests.

As the Global South continues to assert itself in international forums, its role is gradually gaining significance, with increased cooperation and participation shaping global dynamics.

UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS Paper 2 International Relations – India and its neighborhood-relations.

On India-Maldives Bilateral Relations – Change for the worse

Background:

Tensions between India and the Maldives have escalated, particularly following the election of President Mohamed Muizzu, who ran on an "India Out" campaign. Recent incidents, such as derogatory tweets by three Maldivian Ministers targeting the Indian Prime Minister, resulted in their suspension, and the Maldivian government distancing itself from their remarks.

Other Indicators of Strained Relations:

1. State visits to Turkey and China by the Maldives' President, bypassing India during the first state visit.
2. Withdrawal of India's military personnel.
3. Revocation of the joint Hydrography Pact.

Recommended Responses:

Maldives:

1. Avoid Alienation:

- Recognize the importance of India due to geographical proximity.
- Acknowledge India's growing economic influence, particularly in the post-COVID-19 tourism scenario.
- Value India's historical role as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean.

2. Consider Shared Benefits:

- Reflect on India's support during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Acknowledge India's contributions to infrastructure and development projects in the Maldives.

India:

1. Cautious Diplomacy:

- Understand that hostility towards a smaller neighbour has limited benefits.
- Exercise cautious diplomacy to prevent a significant deterioration in bilateral ties.

2. Emphasize Mutual Benefits:

- Reiterate the mutual benefits of a strong relationship, showcasing past instances of intense strategic partnership.
- Highlight the potential for cooperation on the international stage.

3. Maintain Regional Stability:

- Ensure that recent developments do not alter the fundamental structure of bilateral ties.
- Prioritize regional stability in managing diplomatic challenges.

In conclusion, both countries should recognize the advantages of a positive and cooperative relationship. The Maldives, while safeguarding its sovereignty, should acknowledge India's significance, and India should approach the situation diplomatically, emphasizing shared benefits and regional stability. This approach will contribute to maintaining a robust and mutually beneficial relationship.

UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS paper2- polity- role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations.

People's Manifesto by Vikalp Sangam – A manifesto for justice that has sprung from crises

Current Challenges Faced by India:

- 1. Unemployment Crisis:**
 - Severe joblessness leading to protests at Parliament.
- 2. Ecological Disasters:**
 - Incidents like the sinking of Joshimath and a dam burst in Sikkim indicate environmental challenges.
- 3. Social and Cultural Conflict:**
 - Examples like the conflict in Manipur signify wider social unrest.
- 4. Democratic Rights Erosion:**
 - Instances of eroding democratic rights, such as false cases against activists and suspending opposition MPs.
- 5. Economic Inequality:**
 - Significant disparities in wealth and income, requiring a more equitable distribution.

About Vikalp Sangam:

- Collective platform for 85 different people's movements and civil society organizations.
- Aims to find alternatives to the current development model based on ecological destruction and rising inequalities.
- Documents alternative initiatives across India.
- Advocates for policy changes to influence decision-making at multiple levels.

Solutions from the 'People's Manifesto':

Governance:

- 1. Power to Local Bodies:**
 - Real devolution of financial and legal powers to village and urban assemblies.
- 2. Transparency and Accountability:**
 - Comprehensive laws ensuring state agency accountability, including public audits.
- 3. Independent Institutions:**
 - Reviving the independence of the Election Commission and media.

Environmental Issues:

- 1. Sustainable Policies:**
 - Urging a national land and water policy emphasizing conservation and community-led efforts.
- 2. Organic Farming:**
 - Proposing conversion to organic farming by 2040.
- 3. Renewable Energy:**
 - Advocating for decentralized renewable energy and phasing out fossil fuels by 2030.

Others:

- 1. Economic Reforms:**
 - Focusing on job creation in small manufacturing and crafts, extending employment guarantees to urban areas.
- 2. Social Justice:**
 - Addressing inter-faith conflicts, prioritizing marginalized groups' rights, and suggesting increased spending on education and health.
- 3. Decentralization:**

- Seeking fuller implementation of panchayat laws and introducing a National Environment Commissioner role.

Way Forward:

Political parties should integrate these points into their policies, ensuring a comprehensive approach to address India's challenges and foster a more balanced and equitable society. The 'People's Manifesto' offers a roadmap for tackling pressing issues and building a sustainable and just India.

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