

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

On India losing influence in South Asia

The article highlights India's diminishing influence in South Asia due to a blend of internal shifts, evolving perceptions from neighboring countries, and external pressures from global powers like China and the Middle East. To counter this trend, India must rework its strategies to navigate the changing regional dynamics and uphold its standing in the region.

Reasons for India's Declining Influence:

1. **Historical Legacies:** Deep-rooted historical legacies such as the British Raj's impact, unresolved disputes, and the aftermath of partition contribute to ongoing regional tensions.
2. **Perception of Hegemony:** Neighbors view India's regional strategies as attempts at dominance, conflicting with their sovereignty. Concepts like "Akhand Bharat" are seen as covers for regional dominance.
3. **Domestic Politics in the Neighborhood:** Nations like the Maldives seek the withdrawal of Indian military presence to safeguard sovereignty. The unresolved Kashmir issue with Pakistan remains a contentious point.
4. **Shifting Regional Dynamics:** The increasing influence of global powers like China and the strategic interests of Middle Eastern nations are reducing India's traditional role and complicating regional dynamics.

Future Outlook for South Asia:

1. **Geopolitical Evolution:** External powers' influence, such as China and the Middle East, will continue to grow, reshaping regional dynamics.
2. **Changing Alliances:** Neighboring countries might forge new alliances beyond India's influence, asserting their sovereignty.
3. **Potential Regional Integration:** Despite challenges, prospects for increased economic cooperation and integration exist, influenced by political will and external factors.
4. **Continued Legacy of Partition:** Historical disputes, especially linked to Partition, will persist, shaping the political and social landscape.

The Way Forward:

India must reevaluate its regional strategy by emphasizing inclusivity, cooperation, and resolution of long-standing disputes like Kashmir to adapt to a shifting South Asia. Constructively engaging with neighbors and external influences is crucial for navigating the region's complexities. Embracing these changes can help India better position itself in the evolving geopolitical landscape of South Asia.

UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS Paper2- Governance- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Human Resources.

On Youth Unemployment – Are graduates facing unemployment?

The article addresses the ongoing challenge of high unemployment among educated young individuals in India, despite a decrease in overall unemployment rates.

Current Unemployment Scenario:

- **Overall Unemployment Rate:** India's overall unemployment rate dropped from 6.1% in 2017-18 to 3.2% in 2022-23.
- **Unemployment Among Educated Youth:** Specifically, young graduates aged 18-29 face a concerning unemployment rate of 27% in 2022-23, indicating a persistent challenge for this demographic despite broader improvements.
- **Trends in Graduate Unemployment:** Unemployment rates among those with graduate degrees have shown fluctuations but demonstrate a downward trend. From peaking at 17% in 2017-18, it reduced to 13% in 2022-23.
- **Rise in Graduate Labor Force:** The proportion of graduates in the labor force has increased, accounting for around 15% by 2022-23.

Reasons for Concern:

- **Underutilized Skilled Workforce:** High unemployment among educated youth suggests substantial untapped skilled human resources, hampering economic growth and productivity.
- **Growing Graduate Presence:** The expanding pool of educated yet unemployed individuals, rising from 5% in 1993-94 to approximately 15% in 2022-23, exacerbates unemployment despite overall improvements.
- **Persistent Structural Issue:** The enduring nature of graduate unemployment, peaking at 17% in 2017-18, signifies a structural issue rather than temporary fluctuations.

Path Forward:

- **Aligning Education with Market Needs:** Essential efforts to match education with industry demands and enhance relevant skill development are required to tackle the 27% unemployment among young graduates.
- **Creating Employment Opportunities:** Fostering job creation in sectors that absorb educated youth will help alleviate high unemployment rates.
- **Enhancing Education-Employment Linkage:** Strengthening the connection between education and employment is crucial in effectively utilizing the growing educated workforce.

Addressing high unemployment among educated youth necessitates aligning education with industry requirements, generating job opportunities, and bolstering the connection between education and employment. These steps are essential to fully utilize the potential of the educated workforce and alleviate persistent unemployment challenges.