

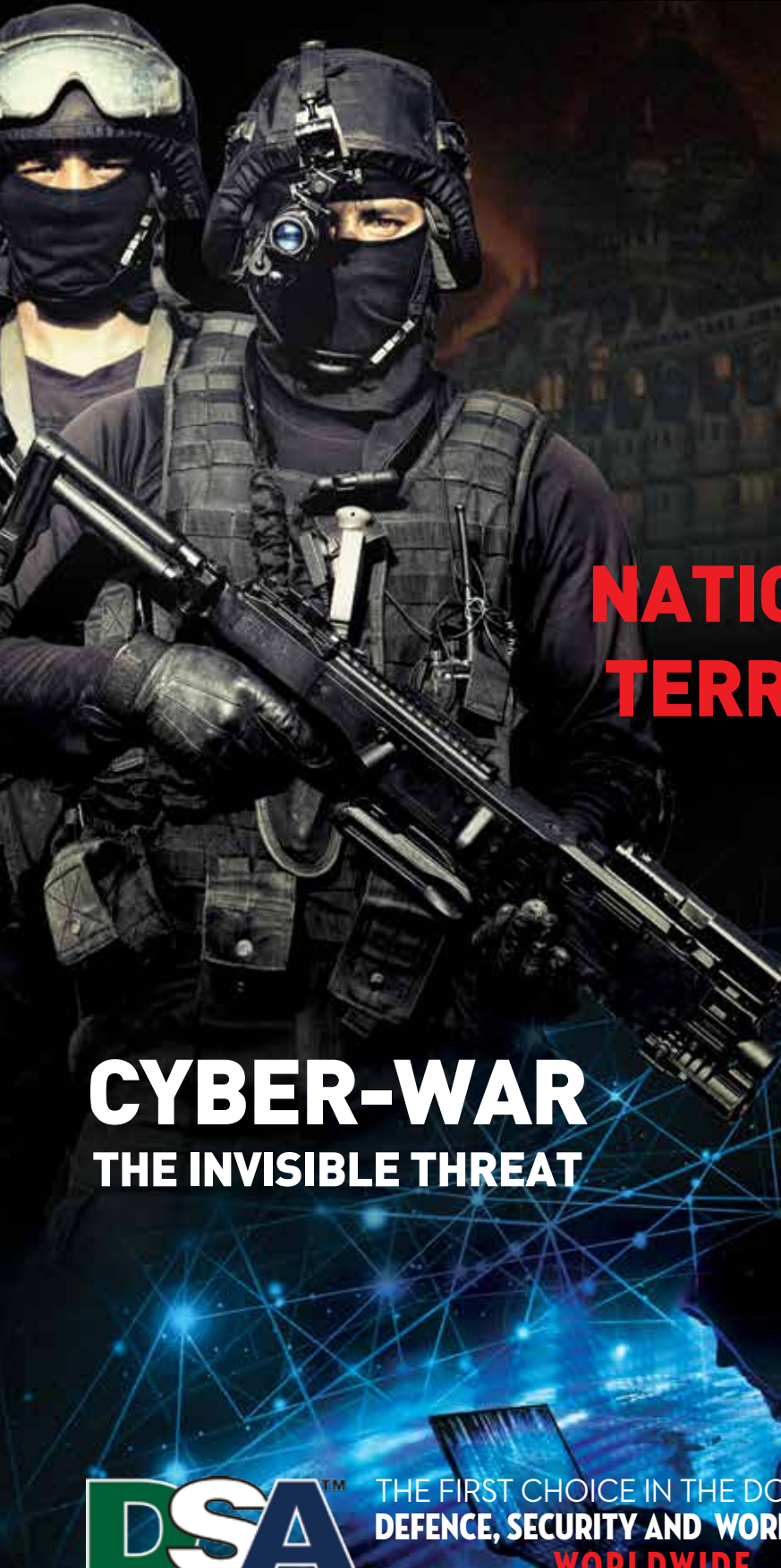
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INDIA'S ALIGNMENT WITH G-7



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India's increasing global posture is the best strategy not only to counter China but a march towards a rising global power. India's engagement with G-7 countries would work for global good and that completely align with India's foreign policy approach of *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, and Sabka Vishwas*.

India's Prime Minister virtually participated in the 47th G-7 Summit, and India's march at the global power stage is well-recognized and well-received. India joined the world's seven most developed countries as a guest country with Australia, South Korea, and South Africa. India can be a strong partner and ally with G-7 for forging democracy and in establishing a rules-based order. India's alignment with the G-7 countries not only boosts India's foreign policy approach but reinvigorate India's posture of rising global power.

India-G-7 Composition

India is best aligned with its approach to the G-7 agenda for global action in three contexts: ideological, economic, and political.



US President Joe Biden speaks at a press conference at Cornwall Airport Newquay in England on 13 June 2021.

The **world's democracies** alliance is the **future model** for new **security** arrangements

In the context of ideological point, on 09 June, US President Biden kicked off his first overseas trip for the G-7 Summit with the speech of “the United States is back” and rallying the world democracies to come together for “the toughest challenge” of the world and to “build back better”. When the world is fighting back the pandemic and striving hard to bring back normalcy, the G-7 countries talked about forging democratic values, multilateralism, and rules-based international order. President Biden stated that the democratic alliance would grow stronger with new-age opportunities at this inflection point of world history. Other leaders have

stamped Biden’s stance in the G-7 communique by a pledge to work together for shared beliefs and values and open societies in the international system.

Since its independence, India has committed to democracy and has developed an open and progressive society. In addition, India has shown resilience and deep commitment to international law and global norms at challenging times, whether during cross-border terror attacks or a nine-month-long stand-off with China in the Himalayan region last year. Therefore, the G-7 and India can promote democracy and human rights given the same ideological

elements in their constitutions and a move forward vision to ‘build back better world.’ Notably, PM Modi remarked that India is a “natural ally” of G-7 countries to defend shared values and beliefs and fight against authoritarianism. The world’s democracies alliance is the future model for new security arrangements to establish peace and stability globally.

At the economic point of view, India is the high-growth emerging market after China with a promising demographic dividend. Due to India’s entrepreneurial culture and a hub of technology talent, India is an attractive destination for foreign investment including Big-Tech like Facebook, Google, Amazon, Walmart, etc. India can prove a force of global economy working with the wealthy economies of G-7 in bi-lateral and multi-lateral trade and investment. Additionally, the



Leaders of the G7 pose for a group photo on overlooking the beach at the Carbis Bay Hotel in Carbis Bay, St. Ives, Cornwall, England, 11 June 2021.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi participates in the first Outreach Session of the G7 Summit in New Delhi.

PM Modi remarked that **India** is a **“natural ally”** of **G-7** countries

growing resentment of the G-7 countries towards China’s unethical business practices and non-market policies, make India as a reliable and strong investment partner. The G-7 countries agreed upon a global infrastructure plan that would counter China on its Belt and Road Initiative and would help developing countries in reviving their economies from the pandemic.

Recently, in an address to Viva Tech, one of the largest digital and start-up events in Europe, Prime Minister Modi has invited foreign investors to India due to its ‘Five Pillars’ of talent, market, capital, ecosystem and culture of openness. India has a huge and diverse market to align and work with the G-7 countries for an equitable global economy.

At the political aspect, in upholding international law and rules-based order, the G-7 leaders countered China on human rights issues in Xinjiang, freedom, and called

on protecting the autonomy and freedom of Hong Kong in accordance with the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Basic Law. It is worth mentioning that it just has been a year of China’s aggression in India’s eastern part at Galwan Valley, wherein a nine-month-long stand-off with China, India lost its 20 soldiers. Despite the disengagement at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), India and China have ‘friction points’ in their relation. India’s worry for China’s expansionist behaviour at the border level and in Indo-Pacific is quite apparent. China’s unpredictable behaviour and aggression likely made India a prominent Quad member with the United States, Australia, and Japan that asserts the peace and rule-based order.

In their joint statement, the G-7 leaders reiterated the importance of maintaining a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific based on the rule of law and warned of any

unilateral attempt to change the status quo in the region. The G-7 countries can work strategically, and exhibiting interoperability with India in the Indo-Pacific construct, where India has a pivotal role due to its geographical position and outreach in the region.

The G-7 leaders rallied around defending democracies and maintaining the rule-based order with a big scold to China. In addition, according to NATO summit communique, China’s “stated ambitions and assertive behaviour present systemic challenges to the rules-based international order and to areas relevant to Alliance security.” Both the G-7 and NATO countries stated that China’s assertive behaviour is a threat to their security and to tackle China’s aggression, alliance and like-minded countries need to work together. In reciprocity, China showed its frustration and denounced the G-7 statement by “stop slandering China, stop interfering in China’s internal affairs, and stop harming China’s interests.”

India and G-7 countries have more fronts to collaborate, for instance, peace-building in Afghanistan when the US’ forces are way back home, climate, energy and counter-terrorism operations. India’s partnership with Quad and increasing engagement with European countries signifies its global outreach and readiness to play an important role in world politics. India’s increasing global posture is the best strategy not only to counter China but a march towards a rising global power. India’s engagement with G-7 countries would work for global good and that completely align with India’s foreign policy approach of *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*, and *Sabka Vishwas*. 