# Leveraging the Indo-Pacific Strategies For a Stable Region



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Geographically speaking, the waters of the Indo-Pacific is the amalgamation of the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean represent an important area for maritime power projection, security, trade, and environmental policies. Moreover, the vast Indian Ocean and Western Pacific Ocean are pulled together by natural resource flows and global supply chains.

The region is made up of 14 countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Burma, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Indo-Pacific region is one of the greatest current and future engines of the global economy.

The world's largest economies are located in the Indo-Pacific region namely, China, India, Japan, Indonesia, South Korea, Thailand, Australia, Taiwan, Malaysia and Philippines.

Currently, India and 13 countries located in the Pacific Ocean are its members in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) -Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States, and Vietnam

Economically, the Indo-Pacific is a centre of global trade and commerce, and therefore a potential area of economic prosperity for the countries in the region. It accounts for 65 percent of the world's population, 63 percent of the world's GDP, and 46 percent of the world's merchandise trade.

**Conceptual Framework** 

Indo-Pacific is not only the region's 'new name' but it is the name of these states' 'new region'

- Rory Medcalf (2013), Australian Analyst

**Conceptual Framework** 

Indo-Pacific is an 'Asian maritime superregion'

> - Rory Medcalf (2013), Australian Analyst

Indo-Pacific idea is emphatically 'naval rather than continental'

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**Conceptual Framework** 

It is not a new strategic region 'except for the period stretching from the 1960s until the end of the Cold War, the Indo-Pacific has been Asia's strategic reality for the past 200 years. The region emerged as a single strategic system around the time of the consolidation of the British imperial power in India.

- Manjeet Pardesi (2019).

**Conceptual Framework** 

In post-1800 era, all major powers in the region — British India, Qing China, Imperial Japan, and the US (until the 2<sup>nd</sup> WWII); and later Britain, India, China and the US (until the 1960s) — envisioned this geographic space to be one singular strategic region.

- Manjeet Pardesi (2019).

# Indo-Pacific Region/Strategy

**Conceptual Framework** 

#### **Debates:**

- Indo-Pacific represents a recent terminological shift for the region.
- The geographic space continues to gain its relevance based on the power play of major states that call it home.
- 3. The US renewed importance to the Indo-Pacific region by renaming the US Pacific command to the Indo-Pacific region.

# 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific'



Japan was one of the first states to project the notion of an 'open and free' Indo-Pacific.

PM Shinzo Abe called the zone as the 'sea of prosperity' governed by 'freedom, rule of law, and the market economy, that is 'free from force or coercion'

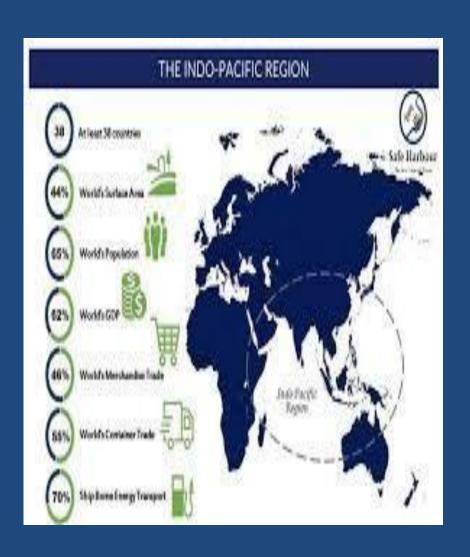
# 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific'



India's vision of the Indo-Pacific is an extension of its Look East (now Act East) Policy.

New Delhi believes that a multipolar Indo-Pacific will serve as the best platform to enhance its global standing and global strategic ambitions.

# 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific'



ASEAN embrace the Indo-Pacific through the ASEAN Outlook at the Indo-Pacific.

Four strategy: maritime cooperation, connectivity, sustainable development, and economy.

#### 'Role of Multilateralism'



Germany emphasizes multilateralism and commitments to the expansion of regional and sustainable infrastructure initiatives.

To delimit dependencies on raw materials and technologies abroad. To diversify business ventures for stability and security.

#### 'Inclusive Indo-Pacific'

FRENCH
STRATEGY
IN THE INDO-PACIFIC
"FOR AN INCLUSIVE
INDO-PACIFIC"

The French Indo-Pacific Strategy addresses issues on sovereignty.

France is an Indo-Pacific nation, with 7 of its 13 overseas departments, regions, and communities, are situated in either the Indian Ocean or the South Pacific.



Concerned on security, freedom of navigation, connectivity, economics and the environment

# PHILIPPINES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

- International network of like-minded countries
- Power shift has been unfolding, globally
- Power transition may be approaching faster than expected, in East Asia (Indo-Pacific) if not globally
- Signs of confrontation are growing due to challenge from rising power
- Dominant power remains distracted both internally and externally
- Institutions and norms must play constraining role, but alliances and defense readiness continue to be very relevant
- Domestic politics and local culture matter
- Philippines is at the center of the Indo-Pacific Region