

# Scholars' Daily Brief

## India's Neighbourhood First Policy: Stability, Strategy and State Capacity

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### Why in News

India's neighbourhood remains central to its diplomatic priorities because border stability, trade corridors, migration, energy security and regional influence are directly connected to domestic governance and national security.

### Core Issue

The central challenge is to balance cooperative regional engagement with firm security responses. A credible neighbourhood policy must combine development partnerships, connectivity, border management, disaster support and diplomatic flexibility.

### Prelims Facts

Revise SAARC, BIMSTEC, BBIN, Act East, Indian Ocean Region, major border agreements, connectivity projects and institutions linked with regional cooperation.

### Mains Angle

For GS2, focus on how India's regional policy reflects strategic autonomy, cooperative federalism in border states, economic diplomacy, and the challenge of competing external influence in South Asia.

### Way Forward

India needs predictable engagement, faster project delivery, resilient borders, cultural diplomacy, and calibrated economic support to remain the most credible partner in the neighbourhood.

### Practice Questions

- 1 Which of the following best captures the purpose of India's Neighbourhood First policy?
- 2 BIMSTEC connects South Asia with which broad region?
- 3 India's neighbourhood policy is most directly linked with which GS paper?
- 4 India's Neighbourhood First policy requires both strategic firmness and developmental credibility. Discuss.