

- This was clearly visible when India had voted in favour of a resolution in the UN General Assembly opposing Trump administration's recognition of Jerusalem as Israeli capital.
- At UNHRC earlier this year, India voted against Israel in three resolutions – one on the right of self-determination of Palestinian people, a second on Israeli settlement policy, and a third on human rights situation in Golan Heights.
- Recently, International Criminal Court claimed jurisdiction to investigate human rights abuses in Palestinian territory including West Bank and Gaza and named both Israeli security forces and Hamas as perpetrators. Israeli PM wanted India to take stand because India does not recognize ICC. However, India did not take any stand.
- Thus, India has been following a policy where it is taking stands on the issues on a case-to-case basis. The policy of De-hyphenation is a work in progress.

INDIAN DIASPORA IN INDO-PACIFIC

#DIASPORA

PRIMARY SOURCE THE HINDU

On the sidelines of foreign ministers meeting held in Australia, India EAM highlighted importance of Indian diaspora in shaping up India's image. In this backdrop, let us understand importance of Indian Diaspora in Indo-Pacific.

Indian diaspora's presence in Pacific Ocean region is crucial given the close economic and geopolitical relations between India and Pacific Ocean region, particularly Fiji.

DIASPORA IN FIJI

- Historically, Indians entered Fiji as indentured laborers during British colonial rule. The diaspora popularly referred to as Indo-Fijians is a mix of Gujarati, Bhojpuri, Tamil, Telugu, Sindhi.
- Indians constitute almost 40% of Fiji's population (India's provided labour for their agricultural and textile industry initially) has been smoothly absorbed

into the local fabric, with some owning sugarcane fields and big businesses.

- Indo-Fijian have been given right to vote and contest elections since early 1960s. Indian diaspora has functioned as a major deciding factor in Fiji's internal politics and thereby building a positive image of Indians within their culture. Mahendra Chaudhry was Fiji's first Indo-Fijian Prime Minister on 19 May 1999.
- Fiji's political history has been disturbed by regular coups by military.
- Ethnic Fijian Nationalism has been a hindrance to the assimilation of Indo-Fijians into the nation's fabric.
- There has been a recent exodus of Indo-Fijians from the island creating fear of brain-drain and most of them moving to Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States.
- The island is strategically important for India, as has been reflected in the continuous dialogue and exchange. India has established FIPIC (Forum for Indo-Pacific Islands Cooperation) which is a forum of 14 Pacific Island countries and India, ISRO has an outreach centre at FIJI.
- If India wants to see the complete fruition of its Indo-Pacific strategy. India will have to continuously invoke historical bonds to keep Fiji into its strategic fold combined with economic aid and a sharply monitored naval presence in the region.

DIASPORA IN AUSTRALIA

- Indo-Australians are Australians of Indian descent or heritage. India annually contributes the largest number of migrants to both Australia and New Zealand.
- In 2017-18, India was largest source of new permanent annual migrants to Australia, and overall, third largest source nation of cumulative total migrant population behind England and China.
- Indians are highest educated migrant group in Australia, with 54.6% of Indians in Australia having a bachelor's or higher degree, more than three times Australia's national average.