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Important words used in editorial

Underscore - emphasize, highlight, stress, accentuate, underline

Fragile - delicate, tenuous, flimsy, brittle, vulnerable, frail, feeble, enfeeble

Pivotal - crucial, critical, vital, decisive, central **Enormous** - massive, colossal, immense, vast, gigantic, mammoth, behemoth

Alignment - alliance, affiliation, association, agreement, coalition

Buoy - encourage, uplift, hearten, inspire, cheer

Invasion - incursion, onslaught, assault, raid, intrusion

Strain - tension, pressure, stress, burden, friction

Itinerary - travel plan, schedule, route, agenda, program

Pursuit - quest, search, chase, seeking, endeavor

Lithography -: a printing process or method used in microchip manufacturing to print circuit patterns on silicon wafers

Seek - pursue, desire, strive, solicit, request, *entreat, implore*
request,

Procurement - acquisition, obtaining, sourcing, securing,
purchasing

Diaspora -: the dispersion or spread of any people from their original homeland

Retain - maintain, keep, preserve, hold, conserve

Cultivate - foster, nurture, develop, promote, cherish

Relevance - significance, importance, pertinence, applicability

Pertinent
(Logical, Rational, ...)

Peripheral - secondary, marginal, auxiliary, minor

Outlook - viewpoint, perspective, attitude

Détente - the easing of hostility or strained relations, especially
between countries

Bloc - alliance, coalition, league, federation, faction

Fray - strain, weaken, erode

Important idioms and phrases used in the editorial

Scale up -: to increase the size, amount, or production level of something

De-risk - to take steps to mitigate or reduce financial or geopolitical risk.

Cold War - a state of political hostility between countries characterized by threats, propaganda, and other measures short of open warfare

Give way to -: to be replaced or superseded by something else

Europe's shift to centre of Delhi's frame is welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trip to the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy underscores how far India's perception of, and engagement with, Europe has evolved. Throughout the Cold War, India's approach to Europe was shaped largely by its close economic and defence ties with the Soviet Union and its rivalry with the West. A prolonged neglect is now giving way to expanding cooperation. Buoyed by the India-EU FTA signed in January this year, following the 2024 India-EFTA agreement, Europe has been increasingly entering India's strategic imagination despite the friction around Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The shift comes at a time when traditional alignments are under growing strain — an unpredictable American president, an ever-deepening partnership between India's ally Russia and competitor China, and a fragile détente between Beijing and Washington, reflected in the Trump-Xi summit. Europe is now central to India's pursuit of export markets, capital, advanced technology and green-energy partnerships. The PM's tour itinerary reflects the enormous potential that collaboration with some of the continent's smaller but highly capable economies can unlock. The Netherlands, with a population of just 18 million, is a pivotal player in the global chip race because of ASML, the sole manufacturer of the advanced lithography machines needed to produce the most advanced semiconductors. The deal between ASML and Tata Electronics will support scaling up of the latter's fabrication plant in Dholera. In defence, India seeks to

diversify procurement away from Russia, and in renewable energy, it requires both technological expertise and capital. Europe also offers opportunities for India's youth as the diaspora across the continent continues to expand, driven by highly skilled workers and students. For Europe, meanwhile, India is a critical partner in its efforts to de-risk from a rising China.

While the EU functions as a bloc of 27 member states, each country retains its own strategic priorities and foreign policy outlook. Europe's sub-regions, too, differ sharply in their perceptions of external powers. India already enjoys strong partnerships with key western European powers such as France, the Netherlands and Germany, and it has moved to deepen engagement with the Nordic countries while strengthening ties with Italy in the Indo-Mediterranean. More must be done to engage with these sub-regions and cultivate cross-linkages for mutual gains. With geopolitical realignments, a fraying rules-based order, and the decreasing relevance of international institutions, India's ties with Europe can no longer be peripheral to its foreign policy.

1. Which of the following statements is/are true according to the passage?
- A. India's earlier approach towards Europe was influenced by its close ties with the Soviet Union.
 - B. Europe has become important for India's technology and green-energy ambitions.
 - C. The India-EU FTA was signed before the India-EFTA agreement.
- (1) Only A and B
(2) Only B and C
(3) Only A and C
(4) All A, B and C
(5) None of these
- January*
- 2024*

2. Which of the following statements is/are **NOT** true according to the passage?

- A. **ASML** is the only company manufacturing advanced lithography machines for semiconductors.
- B. India wants to increase its dependence on **Russian** defence procurement.
- C. **Europe** views **India** as an important partner to reduce dependence on China.

- (1) ~~Only A~~
- (2) ~~Only B~~
- (3) ~~Only C~~
- (4) ~~Only A and B~~
- (5) ~~None of these~~

AC

↳ True

Not true

↳ B

3. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- A. Europe's importance in India's foreign policy has increased due to changing global alignments.
- B. Every European country follows exactly the same foreign policy priorities.
- C. India is strengthening ties with Nordic countries and Italy.

(1) Only A

(2) ~~Only B and C~~

(3) Only A and C

(4) ~~All A, B and C~~

(5) ~~None of these~~

4. Which of the following statements is/are true regarding India-Europe relations?

- A. Europe offers opportunities for Indian students and skilled workers.
- B. The passage states that international institutions are becoming more relevant.
- C. India's engagement with Europe was neglected for a long period after the Cold War.

(1) Only A

(2) Only B

(3) Only A and C

(4) All A, B and C

(5) None of these

5. Which of the following statements is/are correct according to the passage?

- A. The Netherlands plays a major role in the semiconductor industry through ASML.
- B. India seeks European support in renewable energy through technology and investment.
- C. Europe is peripheral to India's foreign policy in the current geopolitical scenario.

H.W

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only A and B
- (3) Only B and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

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