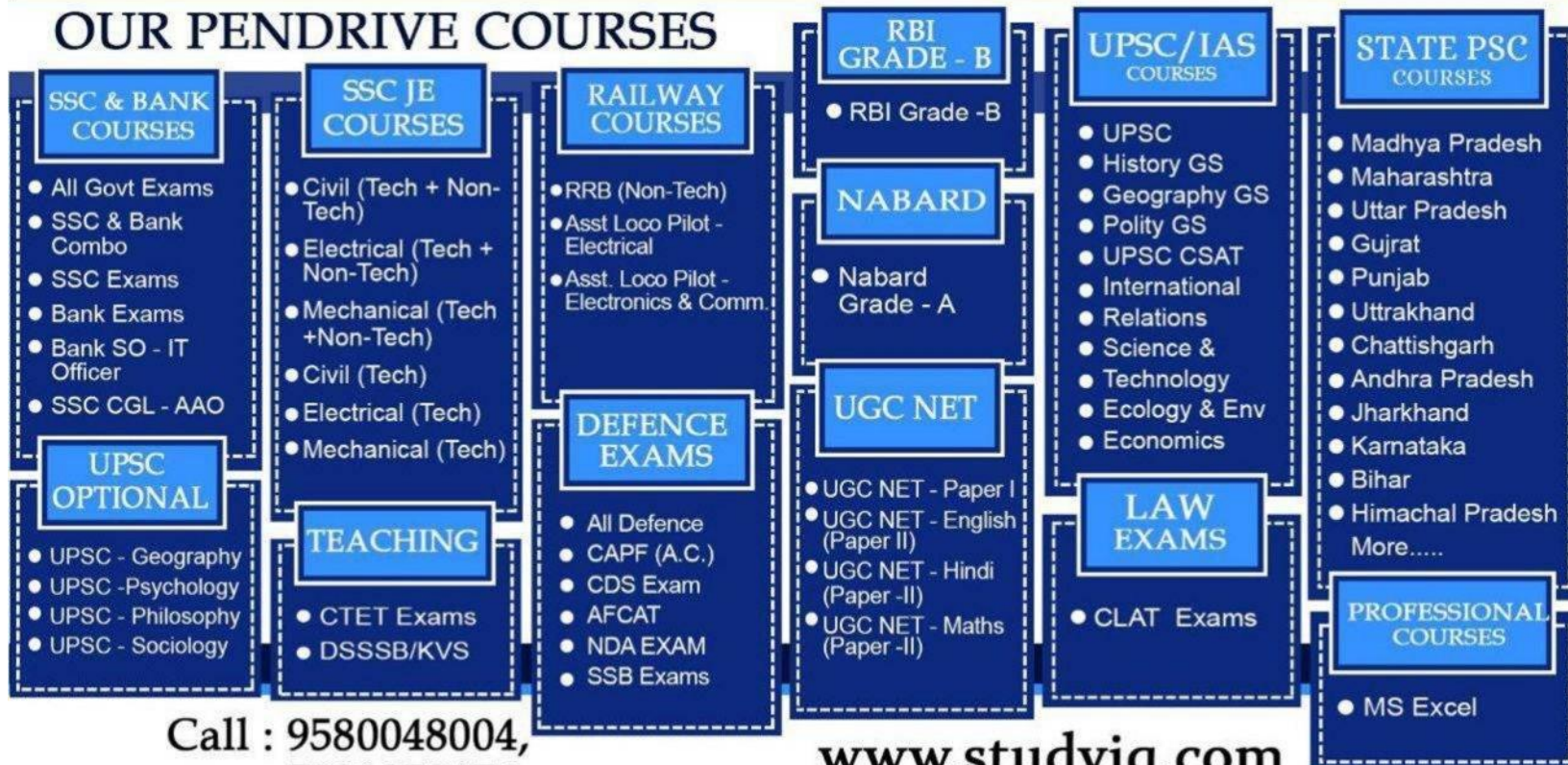


# Russia-India-China Grouping: RIC

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- Recently, the Ministry of External Affairs has announced that it will participate in the virtual meeting of the Russia-India-China (RIC) grouping scheduled to be held on 23rd June, 2020.

- RIC was also a platform for the first meeting between India and China in New Delhi after the end of Doklam standoff.

- **Special Session:** Called by the current Chair-Russia to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the victory in the second world war over Nazism and creation of the United Nations (24th October, 2020).
- Will also discuss the current situation of the global pandemic and the challenges of global security, financial stability and RIC cooperation in that context.

- **India's Stand:**
- The Indian decision to go ahead with the ministerial level exchange has created an opening for de-escalation of tension along the Line of Actual Control.

- **China's Stand:**
- While confirming the participation in the meeting, China has also agreed to control the situation in the border areas.

- **Russia's Stand:**
- Support “constructive dialogue” over the tension in eastern Ladakh as Russia is trusted by both India and China



- **Regional Connectivity:**
- Projects such as the International North South Transport Corridor involving India, Russia and Iran are expected to figure in the agenda.

- International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), is multi-modal transportation established in 2000 in St. Petersburg, by Iran, Russia and India for the purpose of promoting transportation cooperation among the Member States.
- This corridor connects Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via the Islamic Republic of Iran and then is connected to St. Petersburg and North Europe via the Russian Federation.



- The focus of the meeting will be on global coronavirus pandemic and **no bilateral issues** will be discussed.

# RIC

- RIC is a strategic grouping
- First took shape in the late 1990s under the leadership of Yevgeny Primakov, a Russian politician as “a counterbalance to the Western alliance.”
- Founded on the basis of ending its subservient foreign policy guided by the USA and renewing old ties with India and fostering the newly discovered friendship with China.

- Together, the RIC countries occupy over 19% of the global landmass and contribute to over 33% of global GDP.

# Relevance of RIC for India

- **Strategic Balance:**
- Along with JAI, India would do well to give RIC the same importance.
- The groupings like the Quad and the JAI essentially revolve around the Indo Pacific and will confine India to being only a maritime power when it is actually both a maritime and continental power.

- **Forum for Cooperation:**
- Even though India, China and Russia may disagree on a number of security issues in Eurasia, there are areas where their interests converge, like, for instance, on Afghanistan.
- RIC can ensure stable peace in Afghanistan and by extension, in Central Asia.
- Regular RIC interactions could also help the three countries identify other issues where they have congruent views.



- **Creation of New Order:**
- Contribute to creating a new economic structure for the world.
- The US apparently wants to break down the current economic and political order.

- **Governance over Arctic:**
- With the Northern Sea Route opening up due to climate change, the RIC has a common interest in ensuring that it is not left to the West and Russia alone and that India and China also have major say in rules governing the Arctic route.

# SPECIFIC

- RIC would give the platform for resolution of differences (along the Indo-China Border) through dialogue.
- RIC forms the core of both the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the BRICS as greater cooperation between China, India and Russia would lead to strengthening of both SCO and BRICS.

- The RIC is a significant multilateral grouping, because it brings together the three largest Eurasian countries which are also incidentally geographically contiguous. RIC, hence provides a worthwhile platform to discuss issues like West Asia, Afghanistan, climate change, terrorism, regional connectivity, tensions on Korean Peninsula, etc.



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