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Indias robust relationship with Armenia may be put on hold by the shift in the Caucasus balance of power.

When it comes to Indian geopolitical maneuvers, the global strategic community feels that India punches much below its weight, mostly confined to South Asia. Until recently, Indias strategic calculus was primarily limited to Pakistan, followed by China. Its outreach to the Western world was largely economic and cultural, barring a minor strategic component dwelling upon defense deals. However, after the Chinese incursions in Doklam and Galwan worsened the India-China relationship and the involvement of extra-regional actors like Turkey in the Kashmir conflict, Indias foreign policy vision, approach, and strategic calculus are expanding beyond South Asia. Some of its manifestations include Indias interest in the Indo-Pacific, global strategic connectivity projects like IMEC, an upsurge in India-Greece bilateral ties, and New Delhis enthusiastic showmanship during its G20 presidency.

Indias outreach to Armenia, a faraway country in the South Caucasus, is part of this new change. The October 2021 visit of Dr. S. Jaishankar, Indias External Affairs Minister, to Yerevan is historic because its the first such visit of the Indian foreign minister to Armenia in the last thirty years. Before this, Prime Minister Modi met his Armenian counterpart, Nikol Pashinyan, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, seeking

Yerevans support in finalizing a trade arrangement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EaEU).

To read the rest of the article, please click: https://nationalinterest.org/feature/are-india-and-armenia-moving-toward-strategic-partnership-208173

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