





INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Classroom Study Material

(May 2020 to January 2021)



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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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Note:

PT 365 documents comprehensively covers the important current affairs of last 1 year (365days) in a consolidated manner to aid Prelims preparation.

In our endeavour to further enhance the document in the interest of the aspirants, following additions have been incorporated:

1. Different colours have been used in the document for easy classification and recollection of a variety of information.
2. QR based Smart quiz has been added to test the aspirant's learnings and understanding.
3. Infographics have been added to ease understanding, provide for smoother learning experience and ensure enhanced retention of the content.

 <p>SMART QUIZ</p>	<p>You can scan this QR code to practice the smart quiz at our open test online platform for testing your understanding and recalling of the concepts.</p>	
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1. INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD

1.1. INDIA CHINA

1.1.1. INDIA-CHINA BORDER DISPUTE

Why in news?

The border tensions between China and India come to the forefront once again following the ongoing standoff between India and China in the North Sikkim and Ladakh region across the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

India- China Border Dispute

- The border between India and China is not clearly demarcated throughout and there is **no mutually agreed Line of Actual Control (LAC)**.
- The LAC is the demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory. India considers the LAC to be 3,488 km long, while the Chinese consider it to be only around 2,000 km.
- The LAC is divided into three sectors, viz. Western, Middle and Eastern.
 - The **boundary dispute in the Western Sector (Ladakh)** pertains to the **Johnson Line** proposed by the British in the 1860s that extended up to the Kunlun Mountains and put Aksai Chin in the then princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - India used the Johnson Line and claimed Aksai Chin as its own. China, however, do not recognise it and instead accepts **McDonald Line** which puts Aksai Chin under its control.
 - In the **Middle Sector (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand)**, the dispute is a minor one. Here LAC is the least controversial except for the precise alignment to be followed in the Barahoti plains. **India and China have exchanged maps** on which they broadly agree.
 - The disputed boundary in the **Eastern Sector (Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim)** is over the **McMahon Line (in Arunachal Pradesh)** decided in 1914 in a meeting of Representatives of China, India, and Tibet in Shimla.
 - Though the Chinese representatives at the meeting initiated the agreement, they subsequently refused to accept it. The Tawang tract claimed by China was taken over by India in 1951.



1.1.2. INDIA CHINA WATER RELATIONS

Why in news?

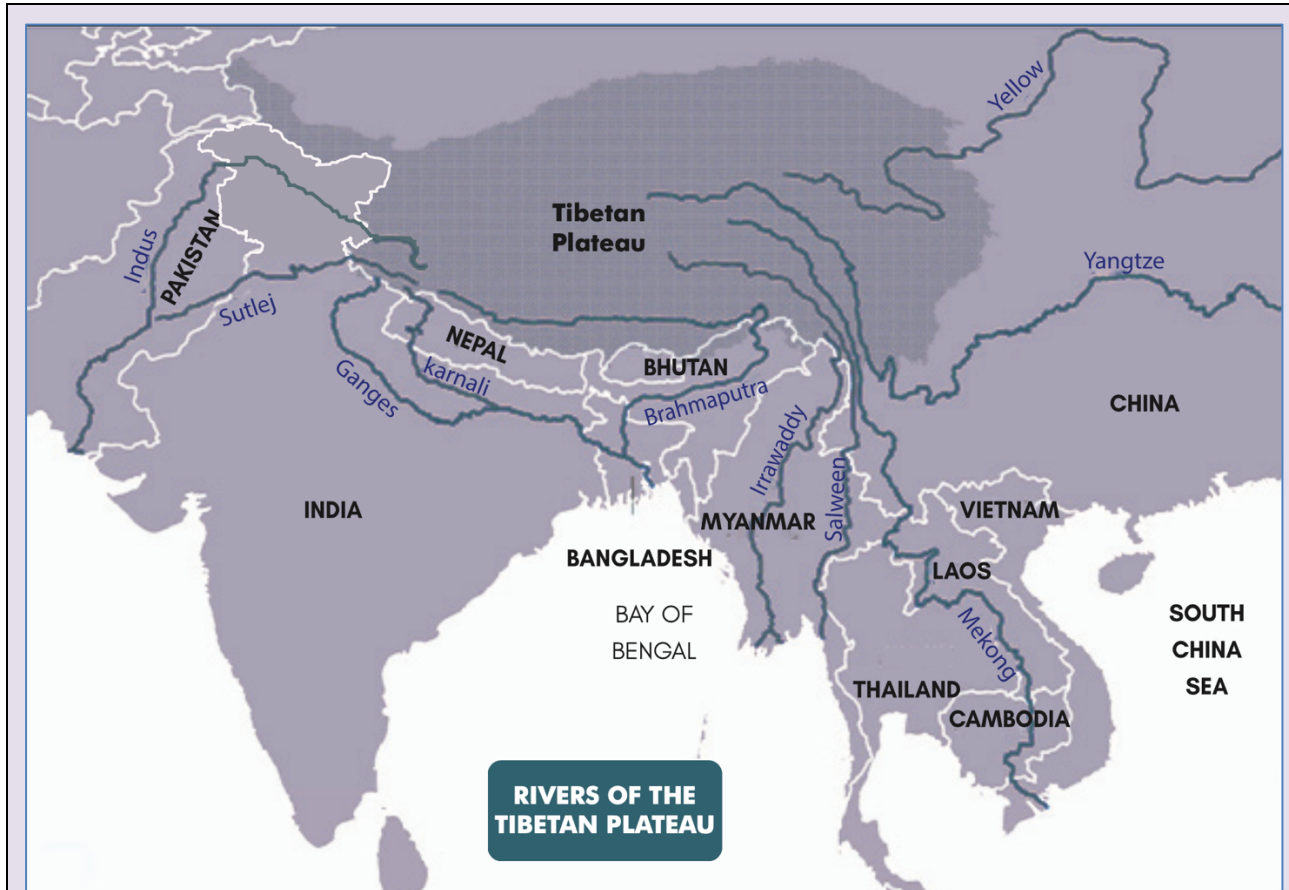
Recently, there have been reports that China plans to **build run-of-the-river dams on Yarlung Zangbo** (the tributary of Brahmaputra (called Siang in China)). This has reinvigorated the debate on India-China water relations.

More in News

- **Yarlung Zangbo**, the tributary of Brahmaputra (called Siang in China). Yarlung Zangbo river is originating in Lunpo Gangri glacier in NW Tibetan Plateau.
- **Run-of-the-river Project** is a type of hydroelectric generation whereby the natural flow and elevation drop of a river are used to generate electricity.

Current status of India-China water relationship

- Trans-border rivers flowing from China to India fall into two main groups –
 - The **Brahmaputra River System** on the Eastern side consisting river Siang (mainstream of river Brahmaputra) and its tributaries i.e., Subansiri and Lohit.
 - The **Indus River System** on the Western side consists of river Indus and the river Sutlej.
- There is **no institutionalized mechanism on water cooperation** between India and China.



River System in the Tibetan Plateau

The Tibetan plateau is often called the “**Third Pole**”, owing to its glacial expanses and vast reserves of freshwater. Following can be cited as key features of this system-

- It is a **source of seven of the South Asia’s largest rivers**- the Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra, Irrawaddy, Salween, Yangtze and Mekong.
- These rivers flow into **Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam**, and form the largest river run-off from any single location.
- It is **estimated that 718 billion cubic meters** of surface water flows out of the Tibetan plateau and the Chinese-administered regions of Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia to neighboring countries each year.

1.1.3. NEW SECURITY LAW IN HONG KONG

Why in news?

Recently China’s National People’s Congress (NPC) approved Hong Kong National Security Law.

One Country Two Systems (OCTS)

- One Country Two Systems policy was **originally proposed to unify China and Taiwan**, which was rejected by Taiwan.
- The idea **resurfaced when China started talks with Britain and Portugal**, who were running Hong Kong and Macau, respectively, as colonies.
- Under OCTS model, China proposed that, Hong Kong and Macau, **can have different economic and political systems** from that of mainland China, while being part of China.
- Likewise, **Hong Kong returned to Chinese control in 1997**, and Macau’s sovereignty was transferred in 1999.

- Both regions became **Special Administrative Regions (SAR)** of China with their **own currencies, economic and legal systems**, but defence and foreign affairs would be decided by China.
- Also, Hong Kongers have **freedom of assembly and speech, and some democratic rights**, which are not available in main land China.
 - These freedoms are protected by **the Basic Law**, a mini constitution that guides relationship between Hong Kong and China.
- **Basic law is valid for 50 years**, till 2047 for Hong Kong and 2049 for Macau. But it is unclear what will happen after this term.
- **Basic law can be amended** with two-third majority in Hong Kong's legislature (LegCo).



1.1.4. TIBETAN POLICY AND SUPPORT ACT

Why in News?

Recently, The US Senate passed the Tibetan Policy and Support Act (TPSA) of 2020 outlining United States' policy on Tibet.

About the TPSA

- TPSA addresses **Tibetan human rights, environmental rights, religious freedoms and the democratic Tibetan government** in exile.
- It **formally recognises the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA)** as the legitimate representative of the Tibetan people.
- It **will pave the way for the U.S. government to issue economic and visa sanctions** against any Chinese officials who interfere with the succession of the Dalai Lama.
- The TPSA also introduces new key provisions aimed at **protecting the environment and water resources on the Tibetan plateau**.
- In addition, it **calls for greater international cooperation to monitor the environment on the Tibetan plateau**.

Geostrategic and Geopolitical importance of Tibet

- Tibet is the **world's highest and largest plateau**, covering an area of 2.5 million square kilometres, with an average elevation of more than 4,000 metres above sea level.
- Its **entire southern rim is flanked by the Himalayas**, the world's highest mountain chain thus the land mass constitutes a **formidable buffer or barrier for any power operating beyond Tibet**.
- The **environmental importance** of Tibet arises from the fact that it plays a **major role in the Asian monsoon and holds largest concentration of glaciers outside of the two Poles** that feed the 10 major river systems that sustain millions downstream.
- Tibet has **always been a place of geostrategic prominence in the eyes of regional as well as superpowers**.
 - In the early 20th century, **British India adopted its forward policy towards Tibet for expanding her market and to establish Tibet a buffer against the Czarist Russia's threat to India**.
 - Presently, as per the popular perception, **China considers Tibet as the palm and Ladakh, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh as the five-finger**.
 - The **incumbent and the 14th Dalai Lama has been living in exile in India** ever since the Tibet was occupied by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) in 1950-51. He has been leading the movement for "genuine autonomy" for Tibet and the Tibetans.

1.2. INDIA-TAIWAN

Why in news?

Two Indian MPs, for the first time virtually attended the swearing-in ceremony of newly elected President of Taiwan.

India-Taiwan relations

- **Background**
 - Post-independence, bilateral ties between India and Taiwan ceased to exist when in 1950 India accorded diplomatic recognition to **People's Republic of China (PRC)**.
 - Further, **during Cold War**, even **informal ties between New Delhi and Taiwan remained remote**, as Taiwan joined the US-led block and India the non-aligned movement.
 - This **changed in the 1990s** when Indian Government **reoriented India's policy towards Taiwan** in the face of India's domestic economic crises and foreign policy challenges.
 - India and Taiwan set up **unofficial relations in 1995 with establishment of the India-Taipei Association (ITA)** in Taipei (Capital of Taiwan).
 - Also, **Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre (TECC)**, founded in 1995, is Taiwan government's representative office in India. It is responsible for **promoting bilateral relations** in the areas of economy, trade, investment, media, tourism, culture etc.
 - However, **India does not have any official diplomatic relations with Taiwan and nor does it recognise Taiwan as independent country.**

India's Act East Policy (AEP) and Taiwan's New Southbound Policy (NSP)

- Taiwan's export-oriented economy and interest in diversifying traditional targets of investment make it a **natural collaborator for India under AEP**.
- Taiwan launched **NSP in 2016** to mark **third phase of the 1994 Go South Policy**. It aims to reinvigorate and expand Taiwan's ties with South and Southeast Asia, Australia, and New Zealand and move away from China.
- While India was not central to the first two phases of Taiwan's Go South Policy, it **has now become an integral part of NSP**.

About Taiwan and One China Policy

- Taiwan, **officially the Republic of China (ROC)** was formed in 1949.
- In **1949 Chinese Communist Party** armies defeated **Nationalist forces** (Kuomintang party) and established **People's Republic of China** (Present China).
- Nationalist forces fled to **Taiwan resulting in the separation of Taiwan** from China in 1949 and **formation of ROC**. Both sides said they represented all of China.
- Initially, many governments including **US recognised Taiwan** separately. But with shift of diplomatic relation the US held **One China policy**.
- According to **One China Policy** any country wishing to establish diplomatic relations with China (PRC) must acknowledge **there is only 'One China' and sever all formal ties with Taiwan**.
- **Taiwan is not a member of the United Nations and WHO**. But is **member of WTO by name Chinese Taipei** (Taiwan).
- **179 of the 193 member states** of UN do not maintain diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

1.3. INDIA-BANGLADESH RELATIONS

Why in News?

The year 2021 marks the golden jubilee (50 years) of 1971 India-Pakistan war that led to the liberation of Bangladesh.

Background of India-Bangladesh relations

- India was **one of the first countries to recognize Bangladesh** and establish diplomatic relations immediately after its independence in December 1971.
- **Trade relations:** Bangladesh is India's biggest trading partner in South Asia.
 - To address trade imbalance India has offered duty free access to multiple Bangladeshi products and is developing 10 Integrated Check Post with state-of-the-art facilities.
- **Military cooperation:** The armed forces from both sides regularly conduct joint drills like **exercise Sampriti and Milan**. India has extended \$500 million line of credit to Bangladesh for defence imports from India.

- **Connectivity:**
 - Both the governments are restoring the pre- 1965 rail links and other connectivity links that existed between India and Bangladesh. For E.g., **railway link between Haldibari in India and Chilahati in Bangladesh** was recently inaugurated and **work on Akhaura-Agartala rail link is underway.**
 - Both countries are committed for early implementation of **Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and India (BBIN), Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA), 2015** for the regulation of passenger, personnel and cargo vehicular traffic among the four South Asian neighbors.
 - Bangladesh has also recently granted permission to use its inland route and **ports of Chittagong and Mongla** for transshipment of goods to northeast Indian states.
- **Border Management:** India shares its longest border with Bangladesh. The ratification of the **Land Boundary Agreement** in 2015 and the **delimitation of the maritime boundary** in the Bay of Bengal in 2014 led to the peaceful resolution of long pending border disputes between the countries.
- **Tourism:** Bangladesh accounts for more than 35% of India's international medical patients and contributes more than 50% of India's revenue from medical tourism.



Related news

India – Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT)

- Second addendum to PIWTT was signed with **inclusion of new routes and declaration of a new Ports of Call.**
 - **Ports of call** are intermediate stops for a ship on its scheduled journey for taking on supplies or fuel.
- **PIWTT was signed in 1972** and was renewed in 2015 for five years under which inland vessels of one country can transit through specified routes of the other.

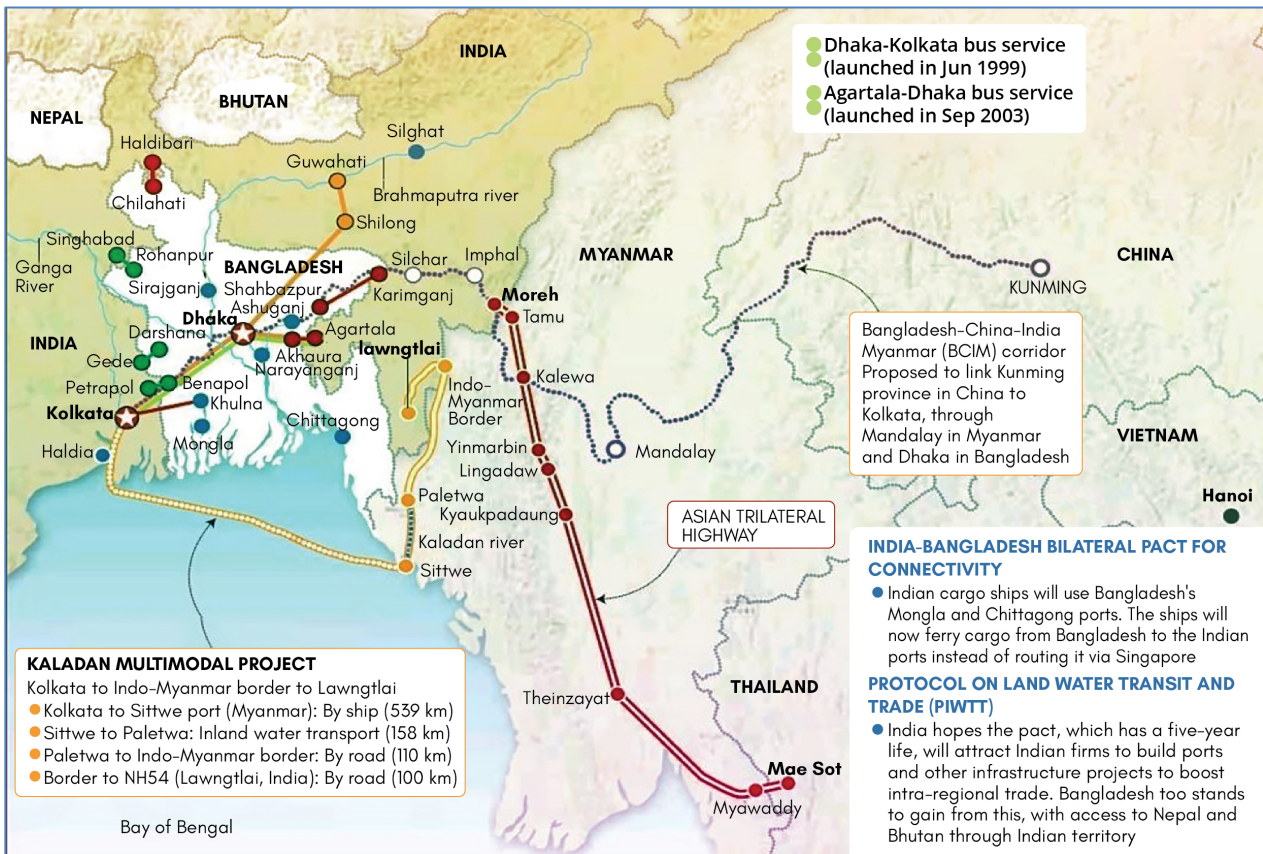
India Myanmar Thailand trilateral highway (IMTTH)

- IMTTH is a **trans-border corridor** that proposes to connect **Moreh in Manipur and Mae Sot in Thailand.**
- It is a grant-in-aid initiative by India as part of its Act East Policy and is aimed at opening land gate to ASEAN and boost trade and commerce.
- It is expected to be completed by 2021.
- India has also proposed extending the highway to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

Related news

Key Highlights of the recent virtual Summit between Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh

- **Border Management and Security Cooperation:** Both sides agreed to work towards finalizing the delineation of the fixed boundaries along **Ichhamati, Kalindi, Raimongol, Hariabhanga and the Kuhsiyara Rivers.**
- **Connectivity:** Inauguration of the newly restored railway link **between Haldibari (India) and Chilahati (Bangladesh),** which was defunct since the India-Pakistan war of 1965.
 - Bangladesh also expressed keen interest in the ongoing **India Myanmar Thailand trilateral highway project.**
- **Cooperation in Water Resources, Power and Energy:** Underscored the need for early conclusion of Framework of Interim Agreement on sharing of waters of six joint rivers, namely, **Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla and Dudhkumar** and agreed to expedite implementation of projects including India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline, Maitree Super Thermal Power Project etc.



1.4. INDIA-NEPAL

1.4.1. INDO-NEPAL TERRITORIAL DISPUTE

Why in news?

Recently, **Nepal unveiled a new political map** that claimed strategically important land Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh of Uttarakhand as part of its sovereign territory.

About Indo-Nepal Territorial Dispute

- The disagreements between India and Nepal over the border dispute is in the regions which includes **Kalapani, Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura (all three in Uttarakhand) and Susta (Bihar)**.
- Kalapani area is the largest territorial dispute between Nepal and India** consisting of at least 37,000 hectares of land in the High Himalayas.
 - It is located in the easternmost corner of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district.
 - It is a **tri-junction between India, China and Nepal**, which is of strategic significance in South Asian diplomacy.



India Nepal Border

- India and Nepal share an approximately an 1,800-kilometre-long open border running along **West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Sikkim**.
- It was after the **Peace and Friendship Treaty of 1950** that the two countries encouraged a well-identified and formally accepted "open border" between them.
 - An "open border" means that there is free and unrestricted movement of people from either side.
 - Open border has led to better social and trade connectivity between the two countries leading to what is called 'roti-beti ka rishta'.

- **Susta** in Bihar is on the **banks of River Gandak**. The changing course of River Gandak often created issue between two countries.
- **Nepal considers the 1816 Treaty of Sugauli** (signed between Gurkha rulers of Kathmandu and the East India Company) as the only authentic document on boundary delineation.
 - Under the provisions of the Sugauli Treaty, Nepal lost Sikkim, Kumaon, Garhwal and Western Terai (Flat) area. River Mechi became the eastern border with India while the river Kali (called Mahakali in Nepal) was demarcated as the north-western border.
 - ✓ The Treaty of Sagauli also defined **Gandak as the international boundary** between India and Nepal.
 - Nepal considers the source of Kali river near Limpiyadhura, which is higher in altitude than the rest of the river's flow. Thus, all the three areas **Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani** are considered to the east of the river Kali.
- **India** on the other hand says the border begins at Kalapani which India says is where the river begins.
 - Kali originates in springs well below the Lipulekh pass, and the Sugauli treaty does not demarcate the area north of these streams.

Additional information

Pancheswar Dam Project

- It is a **bi-national project aimed at energy production and augmenting irrigation** in India and Nepal.
- It is proposed on **river Mahakali (known as river Sharda in India), where the river forms the international boundary between Nepal and State of Uttarakhand in India.**
- A Treaty known as "Mahakali Treaty" concerning the integrated development of the Mahakali River, which included Sharda arrage, Tanakpur barrage and Pancheshwar Dam Project, was signed between the Nepal and India in 1996.
- Other Important Projects between the two countries-
 - **Kamla and Bagmati Multipurpose Projects**
 - **Sapta-Kosi High Dam Project** and SUN Kosi storage cum diversion scheme
 - **Karnali Multipurpose Project**

India-Nepal Friendship Treaty

- The treaty:
 - allows Nepali nationals to work in India without a work permit, to apply for government jobs and the civil services (except for the IFS, IAS, and IPS)
 - allows Nepali nationals to open bank accounts and buy property.
 - allowing Nepal to import arms and ammunition via territory of India.
- India had waived its rights under reciprocity as a sign of goodwill.
- Note- India has also signed treaty of friendship with Bhutan (1949) and Bangladesh (1972).

1.5. INDIA-PAKISTAN

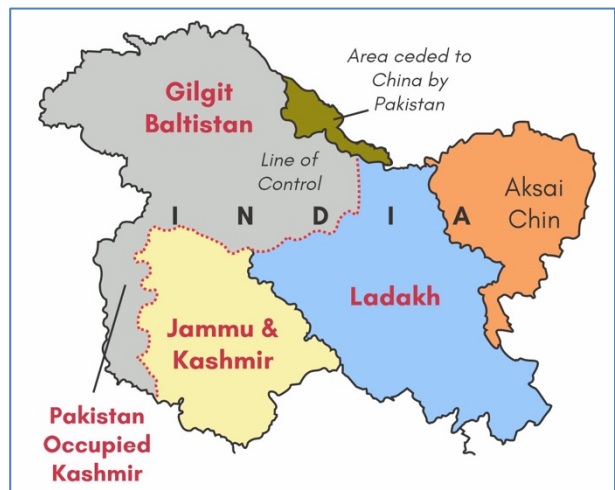
1.5.1. GILGIT BALTISTAN ISSUE

Why in the news?

India lodged a **strong protest against Supreme Court of Pakistan order** on the Gilgit-Baltistan region.

About Gilgit Baltistan (GB) region

- The region was a part of erstwhile **princely state of Jammu and Kashmir**
- It has **been under Pakistan's control since November 4, 1947**, following invasion of Kashmir by tribal militias and Pakistan army.
- It was renamed as '**Northern Areas of Pakistan**' and put under direct control of Pakistan federal government through **Karachi Agreement, 1949**.
- After **GB Empowerment and Self-Governance Order** in 2009, 'Northern Areas' came to be known as **Gilgit-Baltistan**. It provided for a legislative assembly and a council.
- 2009 order was replaced by **Gilgit Baltistan Order, 2018**.
- **2018 order** is aimed at incorporating GB as its **fifth province** and to integrate GB with rest of federal structure of Pakistan by legislative, judicial and administrative measures.
 - Baluchistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh being other four provinces of Pakistan.



- However, **2018 order grants only limited fundamental rights** to people of GB and **does not grant any constitutional status** to GB region.

Importance of Gilgit- Baltistan region

- **Strategic Location:** GB lies at intersection of Indian Subcontinent, Central Asia and China.
- **Large Territory:** Territory of GB is **more than five times larger** than Pakistan occupied Kashmir. It consists of two ethno-geographically distinct territories: Baltistan, which was part of Ladakh, and Gilgit.
- **Water and energy Security:** GB is also significant due to its water and energy resources. Before entering Pakistan, **Indus River passes through GB**.
 - Important glaciers like **Siachen Glacier** are located in GB. **Hydro-electric potential** of Indus River makes it vital for energy security as well.
- **Chinese Interference:** **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor** is passing through GB making India more reluctant to join multinational transport and infrastructure corridor projects sponsored by China.

Additional Information

India shares a 3,323 km border with Pakistan. The border is divided into three parts:

- First is the **International Border (IB)**, which stretches for approximately 2,400 km from Gujarat to the north banks of Chenab in Akhnoor in Jammu.
- Second is the **Line of Control (LoC)**, which is 740 km long and runs from parts of Jammu to parts of Leh. It is a ceasefire line which came into existence after the 1948 and 1971 wars between India and Pakistan. It was delineated in the Simla Agreement (July 1972) whereby both sides agreed not to alter it unilaterally.
- Third is the **Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL)**, which divides the current position of Indian and Pakistani troops in the Siachen region. It is 110 km long and extends from NJ 9842 to Indira Col in the north.

1.7. INDIA-BHUTAN

1.7.1. INDIA BHUTAN HYDROPOWER PROJECT

Why in News?

India, Bhutan sign pact for first joint venture hydropower project.

More in News

- **600 MW Kholongchhu project** will be constructed in Bhutan's less developed eastern region of Trashiyaangtse.
 - It is expected to be **completed in the second half of 2025**.
 - **Joint Venture Partners:** Sutej Jal Vidyut Nigam, a Himachal Pradesh PSU, and Bhutanese Druk Green Power Corporation.
- Kholongchhu project is **one of four additional projects agreed to in 2014**, for development of Hydroelectric Projects of capacity 2120 MW under Joint Venture Model. **Other 3 joint venture to be are:** 180 MW Bunakha, 570 MW Wangchhu and 770 MW Chamkharchhu.
- So far, **India has constructed 4 HEPs in Bhutan totaling 2100MW** (336 MW Chukha, 60 MW Kurichhu and 1020 MW Tala, 720MW Mangdechhu).

Related News

Bhutan's 'Yeti territory'

- **India has proposed to build a road in this territory** of Bhutan, which was claimed by China recently.
- It will enable quick access to **Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh**, which borders China.
- This region lies in **Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary** in far-eastern Bhutan.

1.7.2. CHINA MAKES NEW CLAIM IN EASTERN BORDER WITH BHUTAN

Why in News?

For the **first time China included Bhutan's eastern sectors to the boundary dispute** between the two countries.

More in News

- China has attempted to **stop UNDP's Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding for Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary** (in eastern Bhutan), claiming it was disputed territory but was overruled.
 - So far, dispute was on Jakarlung, Pasamlung and Doklam plateau. (**refer infographics**)
- Bhutan has always maintained silence on its boundary negotiations with China, and it **does not have any formal diplomatic relations with China**.
 - So far both countries have held 24 rounds of boundary talks between 1984 and 2016, concentrated mainly on north and west Bhutan regions.

- India is concerned that Chinese presence in Doklam and other areas near Bhutan would bring China closer to India's vulnerable "chicken's neck" or Siliguri corridor. Bhutan also serves as a buffer between India and China.



- In 2017, Chinese army had intruded into Doklam plateau which is Bhutanese territory, lying at the trijunction between India, Bhutan and China.

- India-Bhutan Friendship

Treaty of 2007 enjoins both sides to "cooperate closely with each other on issues relating to their national interests".

1.8. SOUTH ASIA ENERGY SECURITY

Why in news?

High-level group to help build a South Asia-focused energy security architecture, named the South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE), has been set up under the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

About SAGE

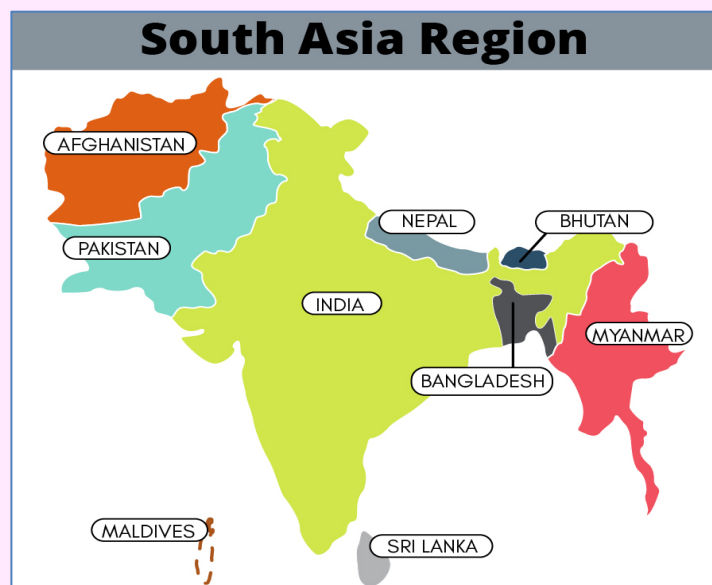
- It is a consortium of energy-sector experts partnering with South Asian governments to enable sustainable energy development in the South Asia region.
 - Consortium comprises USAID, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and three national laboratories: the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL).

- Its objective is to:

- implement research and analysis focused on energy sector opportunities throughout South Asia.
- equip USAID partner governments with critical information to enable strategic investments.
- contribute towards achieving the goals of Asia Enhancing Growth and Development through Energy (Asia EDGE), a United States Government initiative to support the growth of sustainable and secure energy markets across the Indo-Pacific.

South Asian Region

- South Asia, subregion of Asia, comprises countries lying between the Himalaya range and the Indian Ocean (north to south) and between the Ganga and Indus river valleys (east to west): mainly, **Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, India, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Maldives, and Pakistan.**
- It is the home to a quarter of the world's population and is a **major energy consumer**. According to the US Energy Information Administration, the region's **primary energy consumption** increased by 58 per cent between 1991 and 2000, and is **expected to increase by another 40 per cent in the next three decades.**
- Meeting the projected demand, requires international and regional cooperation on technological and, infrastructure development and trade in energy resources.



Multilateral initiatives in South Asia for energy cooperation

- **South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration (SARI/EI)** was launched in 2000 to promote energy security through increased trade, investment and access to clean sources of power and fuel.
 - **It covers 8 countries:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, The Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- **SAARC Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation (Electricity)** was signed by all Member States of SAARC in 2014 to facilitate **integrated operation of regional grid across SAARC.**
- **South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Operational Plan 2016-2025** identifies Energy as one of the four-priority sectors for partnership among **SASEC members (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka).**

Related News

Recently India and Bhutan signed a pact for first joint venture hydropower project.

- The 600 MW **Kholongchhu project** is part of **four projects** agreed in 2008, other three being Bunakha, Wangchhu and Chamkharchhu.
- It is a **50:50 Joint Venture** between Sutelj Jal Vidyut Nigam, Himachal Pradesh PSU and Bhutanese Druk Green Power Corporation.
- **Guidelines for Import/ Export (Cross Border) of Electricity- 2018** issued by the Ministry of Power facilitates import/export of electricity between India and neighbouring countries.

India's Energy cooperation with neighbouring countries

- **India-Bhutan:** Both countries signed, **India and Bhutan framework agreement on hydropower development and trade**, in 2006 to develop 10,000 MW of hydropower by 2020.
 - Key projects include, **Tala hydropower project (1,020 MW)** and **Dorjilung hydropower project (1,125 MW)** (trilateral cooperation between Bhutan, India and Bangladesh).
- **India-Nepal Electricity trade:** Both signed **Power Trade Agreement in 2014** that commits both countries to buy and sell electricity during times of shortages.
 - There are **22 cross border power exchange facilities** operational between two.
 - **Mahakali Treaty** was signed in 1996 for development of **Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project.**
- **India – Bangladesh Electricity trade**
 - **MoU was signed in 2010** between two for bilateral Co-operation in the areas of **Power and establishment of grid connectivity.**
 - India currently supplies **about 1,200 MW power** to Bangladesh, to be increased to over 2,500 MW by 2021.
- **India-Myanmar:** Currently, Interconnection transmission line from Moreh (Manipur) to Tamu (Myanmar) transports electricity from India to Myanmar.

1.9. INDIA-MALDIVES BILATERAL RELATIONS

Why in news?

India announced a slew of new connectivity measures for the Maldives to help the island nation deal with the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

More on news

The announced projects include:

- An “**air bubble agreement**” for travel, a direct ferry service and a submarine cable for telecom connectivity.
- US \$500 million assistance to provide **assistance for the Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP)** to connect Male to three neighbouring islands - **Villingili, Thilafushi and Gulhifahu islands.** GMCP would be the largest civilian infrastructure project in Maldives.

- **US \$400 million Line of Credit (LoC)** comes in addition to a previous LoC of \$800 million that was announced in 2018.

Air bubble agreements

- “Transport Bubbles” or “Air Travel Arrangements” are **temporary arrangements between two countries** aimed at restarting commercial passenger services when regular international flights are suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- They are **reciprocal in nature**, meaning airlines from both countries enjoy similar benefits.
- India signed air bubble agreements with **various countries including**, Afghanistan, Canada, France, Germany, Maldives, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA etc.

High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs)

- HICDPs are **projects with a high-level of community impact and participation** in areas of livelihood and income generation, health, education, gender and child empowerment, sports and sustainable development.
- India has also **signed HICDPs with other nations like Afghanistan, Bhutan** etc.

Strategic Importance of Maldives

- Maldives lies in close proximity to the west coast of India and its potential to allow a third nation's naval presence in the area imbues it with significant strategic importance to India.
- Maldives is situated at the hub of commercial sea-lanes running through the Indian Ocean. More than 97% of India's international trade by volume and 75% by value passes through the region.
- India has the ambition to be 'Net-security provider' in Indian Ocean region and this calls for close military and naval ties with Maldives so that India protects its own interests as well of its neighbours in the Indian Ocean region.
- China is rapidly expanding its footprint in the Maldives though it opened an embassy in the island nation only in 2011. Thus, it becomes geopolitically and strategically important for India to maintain its presence in Maldives.



Additional Information

- Indian Army's 'Operation Cactus' foiled a coup in Maldives that was attempted by a pro-Eelam group in 1988.
- India maintains a naval presence in Maldives, at the request of the Maldives, since 2009.

1.10. INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN

Why in News?

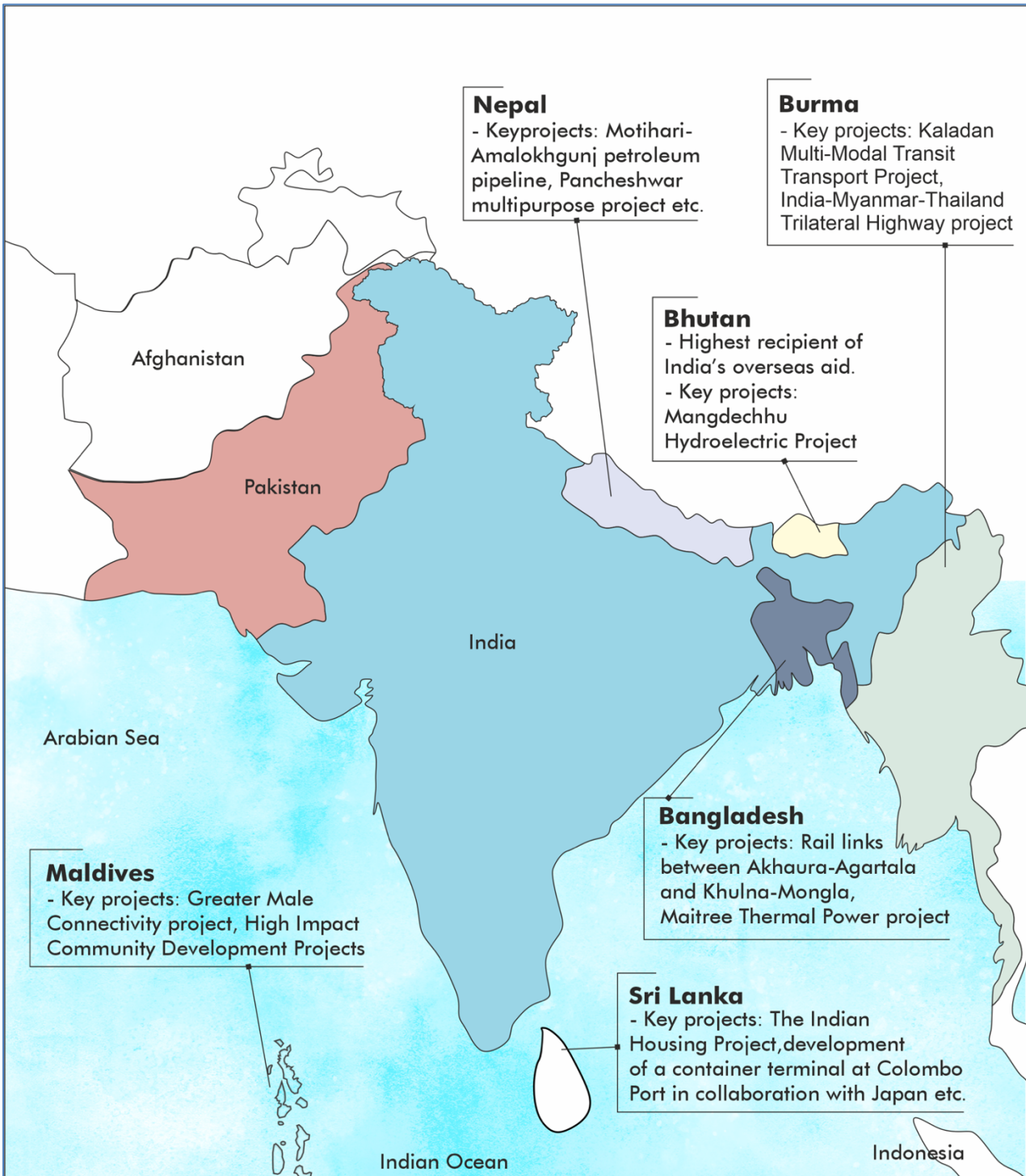
Recently, India announced 100 projects worth \$80 mn in Afghanistan.

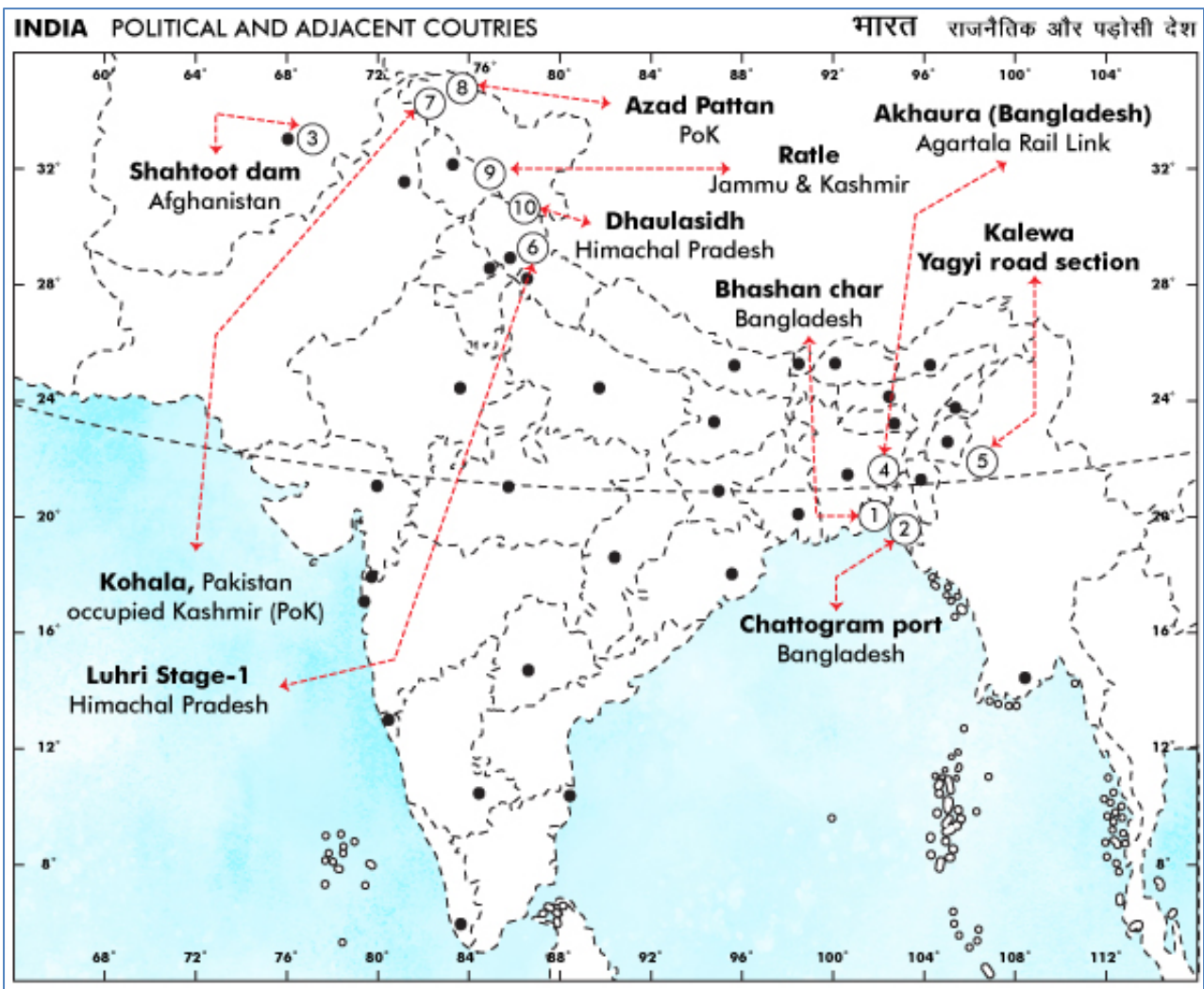
More in News

- India has pledged more than US\$2 billion in Afghanistan and invested in diverse areas including healthcare, education, infrastructure, social welfare, and in the training of politicians, diplomats, and police (see infographic).
 - India is fifth largest donor to Afghanistan and the largest regional donor.
- India is implementing high-visibility large-scale projects in relatively stable areas and low-visibility small development projects (SDP) in relatively remote and insecure areas in order to increase its sectoral spread and geographic reach.
- Over the years, India has shifted focus from a narrow



security-centric approach, to regional confidence building, development, governance, and trade and investment, aiming to use Afghanistan's resource potential to build its economic viability, sustainability, and independence.





S.No	Location	About
1	Bhashan char, Bangladesh	Island in Bay of Bengal where Bangladesh has made shelter houses for Rohingya refugees.
2	Chattogram port, Bangladesh	First container shipped from Kolkata Port to Agartala via Chattogram port
3	Shahtoot dam, Afghanistan	India will construct this Dam on Maidan river tributary of Kabul river.
4	Akhaura (Bangladesh)-Agartala Rail Link	First train to run from northeastern region to Bangladesh.
5	Kalewa-Yagyi road section	A section of India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway.
Hydro Power Projects		
6	Luhri Stage-1, Himachal Pradesh	Located on River Satluj which is situated in Shimla and Kullu districts.
7	Kohala, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)	On Jhelum River to be constructed by China under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
8	Azad Pattan, PoK	On Jhelum River to be constructed by China under CPEC.
9	Ratle, Jammu and Kashmir	A run of River Project on Chenab River in the Kishtwar District.
10	Dhaulasidh, Himachal Pradesh	A run of river Project on river Beas

2. INDO-PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEAN REGION



2.1. INDO PACIFIC REGION

Why in News?

Germany recently became the **second European nation after France** to formally adopt a strategy for Indo-Pacific region (IPR).

About Indo-pacific

- Indo-Pacific is a **geopolitical term** that has gained traction in recent years.
- USA renamed its **Pacific Command to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command in 2018**.
- ‘Indo-pacific’ was mentioned in **Prime Minister’s speech delivered at the Shangri La Dialogue** in Singapore in 2018.
 - Shangri La Dialogue, organized by the **International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)**, is **Asia’s premier defence summit**. It’s a meeting where ministers debate the region’s most pressing security challenges, engage in important bilateral talks and come up with fresh solutions.
- **India interprets the geographical reach of Indo-Pacific from Eastern coast of Africa to the Western coast of North and South America**, which covers both the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
 - However, other countries like Japan, USA etc. have different interpretations.

Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)

- It is an initiative **launched** by Prime Minister at the **East Asia Summit** in Thailand in November 2019.
- The initiative is **centred around seven pillars** including maritime security; maritime ecology; maritime resources; capacity building and resource sharing; disaster risk reduction and management; science, technology, and academic cooperation; and trade connectivity and maritime transport.
 - India has called on Vietnam to partner on one of the seven pillars of the IPOI.

ASEAN’s Outlook on Indo-Pacific

- ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific **envisages ASEAN Centrality as the underlying principle for promoting cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region**, with ASEAN-led mechanisms, such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), as platforms for dialogue and implementation of the Indo-Pacific cooperation, while preserving their formats.

2.2. SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE INITIATIVE (SCRI)

Why in News?

Recently, Trade ministers of India, Australia, and Japan decided to **launch an initiative on supply chain resilience (it was first proposed by Japan)** and invited like-minded countries in the Indo-Pacific region to join the initiative.

About SCRI

- It is an approach that helps a country to ensure that it has diversified its supply risk across a clutch of supplying nations instead of being dependent on just one or a few.
- Unanticipated events** — whether natural, such as tsunamis, earthquakes or even a pandemic; or manmade, such as an armed conflict in a region — that disrupt supplies from a particular country or even intentional halts to trade, could adversely impact economic activity in the destination country.
- Objective is to-**
 - Attract foreign direct investment to turn the Indo-Pacific into an economic powerhouse.
 - Build a mutually complementary relationship among partner countries.

About Global Supply Chain

- Global supply chains are **networks that can span across multiple continents and countries** for the purpose of sourcing and supplying goods and services.
- Global supply chains **involve the flow of information, processes and resources** across the globe.

2.3. INDIA-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS

Why in news?

Recently, the **first ever virtual bilateral summit** was held between Prime Ministers of India and Australia.

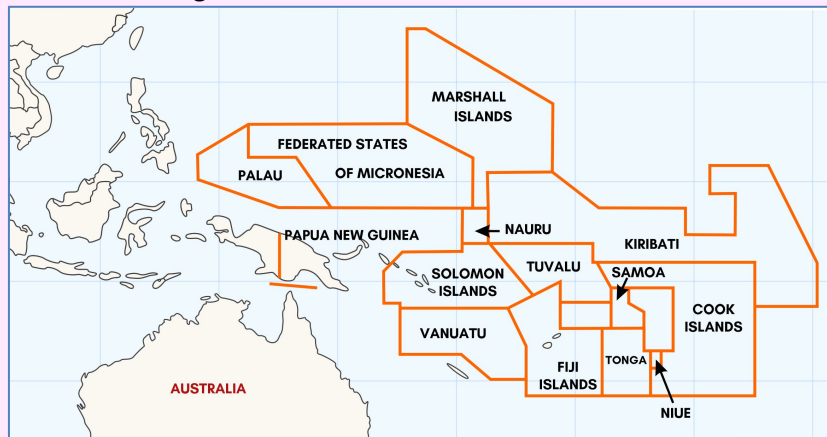
Key Outcomes of the Summit

- Elevated the bilateral Strategic Partnership to **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.
- Elevated the “2+2” engagement to the level of **Foreign and Defence Ministers (from secretary level)**, where **strategic discussions** will be taking place **every two years**.
 - India already has such mechanism with USA and Japan.
- MoU on cooperation in the field of **mining and processing of Critical and Strategic minerals**.
- Mutual **Logistics Support Agreement** was signed.
- Joint declaration** on shared vision for **Maritime Cooperation** in the Indo-Pacific region.

Additional Information

Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) (3)

- FIPIC was launched in 2014.
- India's focus has largely been on the Indian Ocean where it has sought to play a major role and protect its strategic and commercial interests. The **FIPIC initiative marks a serious effort to expand India's engagement in the Pacific region**.



An India Economic Strategy to 2035

- It is a **three-pillar strategy** with focus on building a sustainable long-term economic strategy.
- It **identifies 10 sectors and 10 states** in Indian market where Australia has competitive advantages, and where it should focus its efforts.
- These are divided into a flagship sector (education), three lead sectors (agribusiness, resources, and tourism) and six promising sectors (energy, health, financial services, infrastructure, sport, science and innovation).
- Three pillars include:** Economic ties, Geostrategic Engagement and Rethinking Culture-thrust on soft power diplomacy.

Overview of India- Australia Relations

Background	Economic and commercial relations	Defence and security cooperation	Global cooperation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the cold war period, Australia was United States' closest ally, while India opted for non-alignment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2018, Australia announced implementation of “An India Economic Strategy to 2035”, a vision document to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement was signed 2014 between two, enabling India to secure uranium from Australia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia's Pacific Step Up and India's Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) reaffirm

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 21st century, with the changing global scenario, Australia looked at India as an important partner in promoting regional security and stability. This led to up gradation of bilateral relationship to a 'Strategic Partnership', including a Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation in 2009. 	<p>shape India- Australia bilateral ties. India is also preparing an Australia Economic Strategy Paper (AES) on similar lines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two countries have decided to re-engage talks on a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) (Talks started in 2011, last being in 2015). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both also signed Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT), Extradition Treaty and the Social Security Agreement. Maritime Security cooperation is seen in the form of joint exercises like AUSINDEX 2019, AUSTRAHIND, Exercise Pitch Black and Kakadu biennial exercise (Hosted by the Australian Navy). 	<p>their cooperation in the South Pacific region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both co-operate in various multilateral fora including QUAD security dialogue, Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), ASEAN Regional Forum, G-20, East Asia Summits etc.
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S. N.	Location	About
1	Zealandia	Long, narrow microcontinent that is mostly submerged in the South Pacific Ocean
2	Amami Islands	Archipelago is part of Japan.
3	Senkaku islands	Group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea, claimed by Japan, China and Taiwan
4	Kilauea volcano	A volcano on Hawaii's Big Island that erupted recently.
5	Pratas Islands	Also known as Dongsha Islands, have emerged as a new flashpoint in South China Sea.
6	Taiwan	Lies off the coast of southeastern China.
7	Shanghai, China	New Development Bank (BRICS bank) headquarters
8	Beijing, China	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation headquarters
9	Honkong	China's National People's Congress (NPC) approved Hong Kong National Security Law
10	Pantanal, Brazil	It is World's Largest Wetland that also extends into Bolivia and Paraguay. Recently, It faced a large fire outbreak.

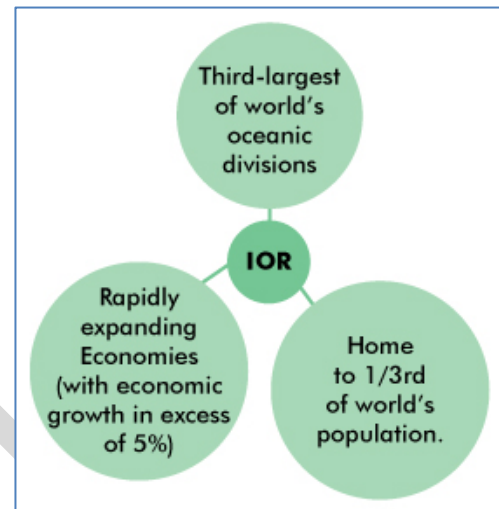
2.4. INDIAN OCEAN REGION (IOR)

Why in news?

Recently, India's Chief of Defence Staff (CoDS) remarked "the world is witnessing a race for strategic bases in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and it is only going to gain momentum in the times to come".

About the IOR

- **IOR is rich in natural resources:**
 - 40% of the world's offshore oil production
 - almost 15% of the world's total fishing take place in the Indian Ocean basin
 - Poly Metallic Nodules (PMNs) containing nickel, cobalt, and iron, and massive sulphide deposits of manganese, copper, iron, zinc, silver, and gold present in sizeable quantities on the seabed
 - Indian Ocean coastal sediments are also important sources of titanium, zirconium, tin, zinc, and various rare earth elements.
- India has already taken various steps for governance of the IOR. These include
 - **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):** It is regional forum of Indian Ocean littoral states, represented by their Navy chiefs similar to Western Pacific Naval Symposium. It seeks to "increase maritime co-operation among navies" of the Indian Ocean littoral states.
 - **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):** It emphasizes on maritime security, trade, cultural promotion, tourism, resource management and governance.
 - **Humanitarian And Disaster Relief Operations (HADAR):** For decades India has positioned itself as the first responder to humanitarian crises in the IOR. This also includes rescuing citizens of India and neighbouring countries from conflict zones.
 - **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA):** India aspires to become net security provider in the IOR. It has taken following initiatives in this direction.
 - ✓ **Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC):** Jointly managed by the Indian Navy and Coast Guard, it is the nodal center of the National Command Control Communications and Intelligence (NC3) Network. It provides information and surveillance over India's entire coastline, along with its outlying islands, in real time.
 - ✓ **Information Fusion Center for the India Ocean Region (IFC-IOR):** It aims to provide regional MDA by fusing large data sets originating from multiple sources.
 - ✓ **White shipping agreement** allows Indian Navy exchange data on commercial traffic. This helps create a better picture of movements and vessels at sea.
 - **Participation in Military Exercises** like MILAN, MALABAR etc.
 - **Logistics-sharing agreements:** with the US and Australia, as well as with France, Singapore, and South Korea. A similar logistics-sharing agreement with Japan is in an advance stage of negotiations. Examples include: Logistics exchange at ports Sabang, Changi, Duqm, Agalega, Chabahar etc.



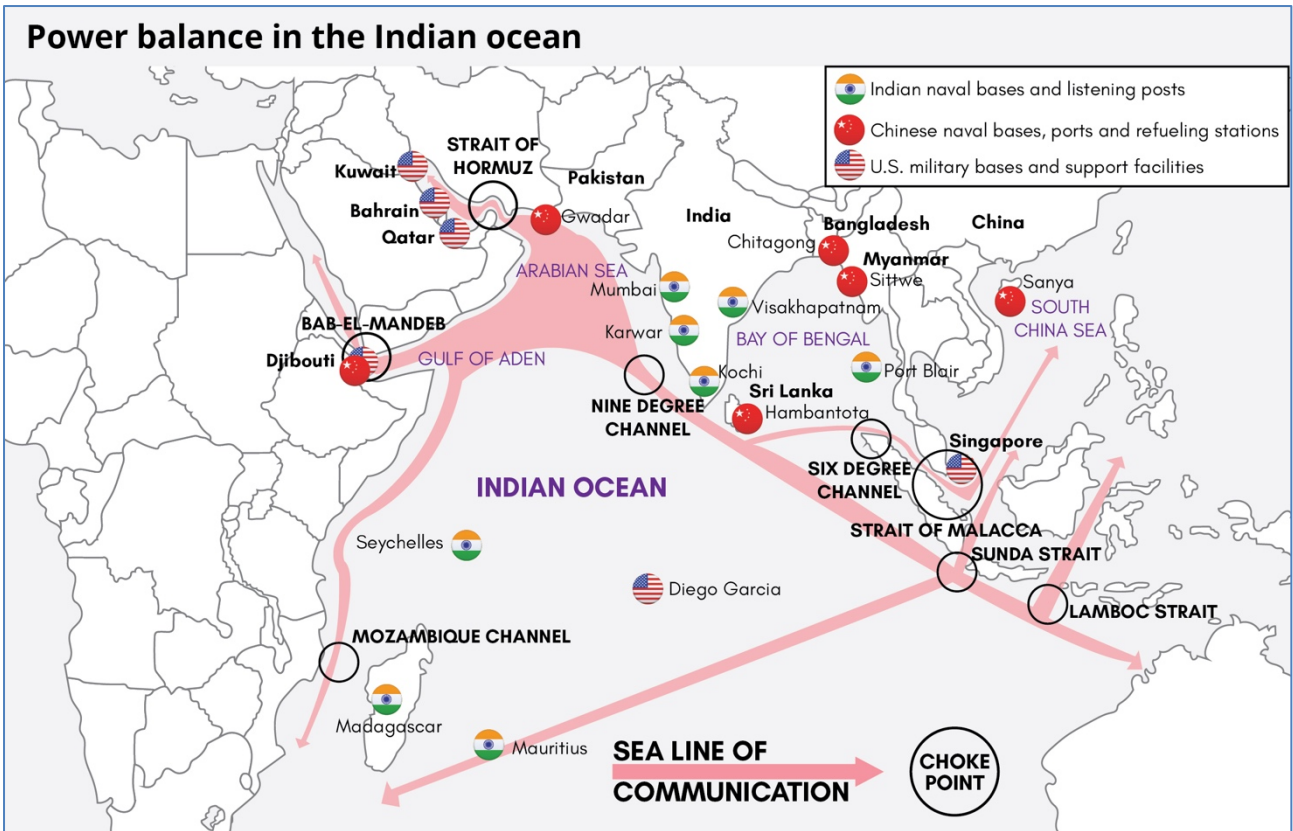
Related Information


Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- It is an inter-governmental organisation aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region through its **22 Member States and 9 Dialogue Partners**.
- The major priorities & focus areas include: **Fisheries Management, Blue Economy, Women's Economic Empowerment, Maritime Safety & Security etc.**
- The members include Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, **India**, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Maldives and Yemen.

Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

- The IOC is an **intergovernmental organisation created in 1984**.
- It consists of five African Indian Ocean nations: **Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion and Seychelles**





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3. INDIA AND CENTRAL ASIA/RUSSIA

3.1. INDIA-CENTRAL ASIA DIALOGUE

Why in News?

The 2nd meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue was recently held in the digital video-conference format with participation of Foreign Ministers of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyz Republic.

About India-Central Asia Dialogue

- India holds this dialogue with **five Central Asian countries**- Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic.
 - All the countries participating in the dialogue, **except for Turkmenistan**, are also members of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation**.
- The 1st meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue held in January 2019 in Samarkand (Uzbekistan).
 - Also, **Afghanistan attended the 1st and 2nd meetings** as a special invitee.
- The dialogue provides a platform for strengthening cooperation between India and the Central Asian countries in **political, security, economic and commercial, development partnership, humanitarian and cultural spheres** as well as exchanging views on **regional and international issues** of mutual interest and enhancing cooperation under the framework of UN and other multilateral fora.



Additional Information

Connect central Asia policy

- India's 'Connect Central Asia' policy, formulated in 2012, is a broad-based approach, including political, security, economic and cultural connections. Some key features are
 - India looks to Central Asia as a long term partner in energy, and natural resources. Central Asia possesses large cultivable tracts of land and we see potential for India to cooperate in production of profitable crops with value addition.
 - Step up **multilateral engagement with Central Asian partners using the synergy of joint efforts** through existing fora like the SCO, Eurasian Economic Community (EEC) and the Custom Union. India has already proposed a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement to integrate its markets with the unifying Eurasian space.
 - Strengthen our strategic and security cooperation.
 - Setting up a Central Asian e-network with its hub in India**, to deliver, tele-education and tele-medicine connectivity, linking all the five Central Asian States.
 - For land connectivity, reactivated the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
 - Emphasise exchanges between youth and the future leaders of India and Central Asia,

3.2. ARMENIA AZERBAIJAN CONFLICT

Why in news?

Recently, the decades old conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh region has resurfaced.

About Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict

- Nagorno-Karabakh (also known as Artsakh) is **internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan**, but most of the region is controlled by Armenian separatists.

- It has been part of Azerbaijan territory since the Soviet era.
- The majority of the population in Nagorno-Karabakh is Armenian Christian whereas Azerbaijan is a Muslim majority country.
- Nagorno-Karabakh is a breakaway region in South Caucasus/Transcaucasia (strategically important mountainous region in south-east Europe).



- **History and ethnicity** are two factors that play the biggest role in the present conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh region.
 - **Azerbaijan claim** the Nagorno-Karabakh region has been under their rule in known history.
 - **Armenians' claim** hold the opinion that Karabakh was part of a great Armenian kingdom as far back as the fourth century BCE.
- The issue is further complicated by the fact that the region changed hands across multiple dynasties and came to be occupied by varied ethnic communities in the course of the following centuries.
 - In late 1980 the Armenian parliament had voted for transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia; however, this demand was rejected by the collapsing Soviet.
 - This followed years of clashes between Azerbaijan forces and Armenian separatists.
- Peace talks have taken place since 1994 mediated by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group.

Related information

Minsk Group

- It is the only internationally agreed body to mediate the negotiations for the peaceful resolution of the conflict.
- It is chaired by France, Russia and the US.
- It functions under the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- The Madrid principles were proposed by the Minsk Group in 2007.
 - These are series of pragmatic suggestions for settling the conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh peacefully.
 - It calls for Armenia to withdraw its military from Nagorno-Karabakh in exchange for Azerbaijan granting de-facto autonomy to Nagorno-Karabakh.

About Collective Security Treaty Organization.

- It is a Russia-led military alliance which ensures the collective defence of any member that faces external aggression.
 - **Collective defence** means that an attack against one Ally is considered as an attack against all Allies.
- It originates from the conclusion of the Collective Security Treaty, which was signed in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) in 1992.
- **Members:** Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia and Tajikistan.



S. N.	Location	About
1	Belarus	Movement demanding new democratic leadership and economic reform started in Belarus.
2	Black Sea	Turkey discovered natural gas reserve in Black Sea.

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4. INDIA AND WEST ASIA

4.1. CHABAHAR-ZAHEDAN RAILWAY LINE

Why in news?

Iran has decided to proceed with the construction of rail line from Chabahar port to Zahedan, along the border with Afghanistan, without India.

Background

- In 2016, the **Trilateral Agreement** on Establishment of International Transport and Transit Corridor was signed among India, Iran and Afghanistan.
 - The transit and transportation corridor allows Indian goods to reach Afghanistan through Iran, bypassing Pakistani territory, and complements the **Zaranj-Delaram** highway built by India in Afghanistan in 2009.
- Under this agreement, India committed towards **developing Chabahar port** as well the land-based route connecting the port to Afghanistan.
- India also signed a pact with Iran to provide requisite services for the **construction of Chabahar-Zahedan railway line**, that cuts down travel time from the Chabahar port to the Iran-Afghanistan border.
 - To facilitate it, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India's IRCON (the specialized constructions organization associated with the Ministry of railways) and the Construction, Development of Transport and Infrastructure Company (CDTIC) of Iran was signed.



About Chabahar port

- It is located in the Gulf of Oman at the Sistan-Baluchistan province of energy rich Iran on the Makran Coast
- It is jointly being developed by **India, Iran and Afghanistan** for multi-modal transport of goods and passengers.
- Port has **geographical proximity with India** with distance from Kandla port, Gujarat to Chahabar to be around 1000 kms and that from Chahabar to Mumbai around 1450 kms.
- Chabahar has two terminals** - Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti (also called first phase of the Chabahar port).



- **Shahid Beheshti is being developed jointly by India Afghanistan and Iran** under the Trilateral Transit Agreement signed in 2016 according to which
 - **India would be granted a 10-year lease** to develop and operate two terminals and five berths at **Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar**
 - India and Iran would develop a **rail network between Chabahar and Zahedan** (located just across the border from Afghanistan).
 - It also provides the necessary **legal framework for trans-shipment of goods to Afghanistan**.

Why India's connectivity with Chabahar port holds strategic importance?

- **India's gateway to Central Asia and Europe:** Chabahar port provides India direct connectivity to these regions bypassing Pakistan. Chabahar will be linked with the International North-South Transportation Corridor (INSTC) which would enhance India's trade with Eurasia up to \$170 billion. INSTC at present stretches from Bandar Abbas port, Iran to Russia.
 - Chabahar port can hook onto ongoing corridor plans and programmes like **Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA)**, **Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC)** and other multilateral transport initiatives in the region.
- **Enhance trade opportunities among India-Iran-Afghanistan**
- **A potential alternative to Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China:** Besides Uzbekistan, other Central Asian countries have also shown interest in using this port. For them, Chabahar is the shortest opening to the India Ocean for their maritime trade. So far, they have been relying on seaport facilities in Turkey, Russia, Baltic States, Iran (Bandar Abbas) and China.

4.2. ABRAHAM ACCORD

Why in News?

Recently, **Israel, UAE and Bahrain** signed Abraham Accord that aims at establishing formal relations between the two countries.

More about news

- As per the agreements, the **UAE and Bahrain will establish embassies, exchange ambassadors, cooperate and work together with Israel** across a range of sectors, including tourism, trade, healthcare and security.
 - Firstly, a trilateral agreement was signed between Israel and UAE along with the United States which was a significant breakthrough in diplomatic relations between Arab nations and Israel.
 - **Arab nations include** Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
 - **Gulf countries** are the seven Arab states which border the **Persian Gulf, namely Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE.**
 - UAE becomes the third Arab nation to recognize Israel after Egypt (in 1979) and Jordan (1994).
 - For decades, there has been a consensus among many Arab and Muslim-majority states that they will not end a state of hostility with Israel until it agrees to a deal granting statehood to the Palestinians.



About Arab-Israel conflict

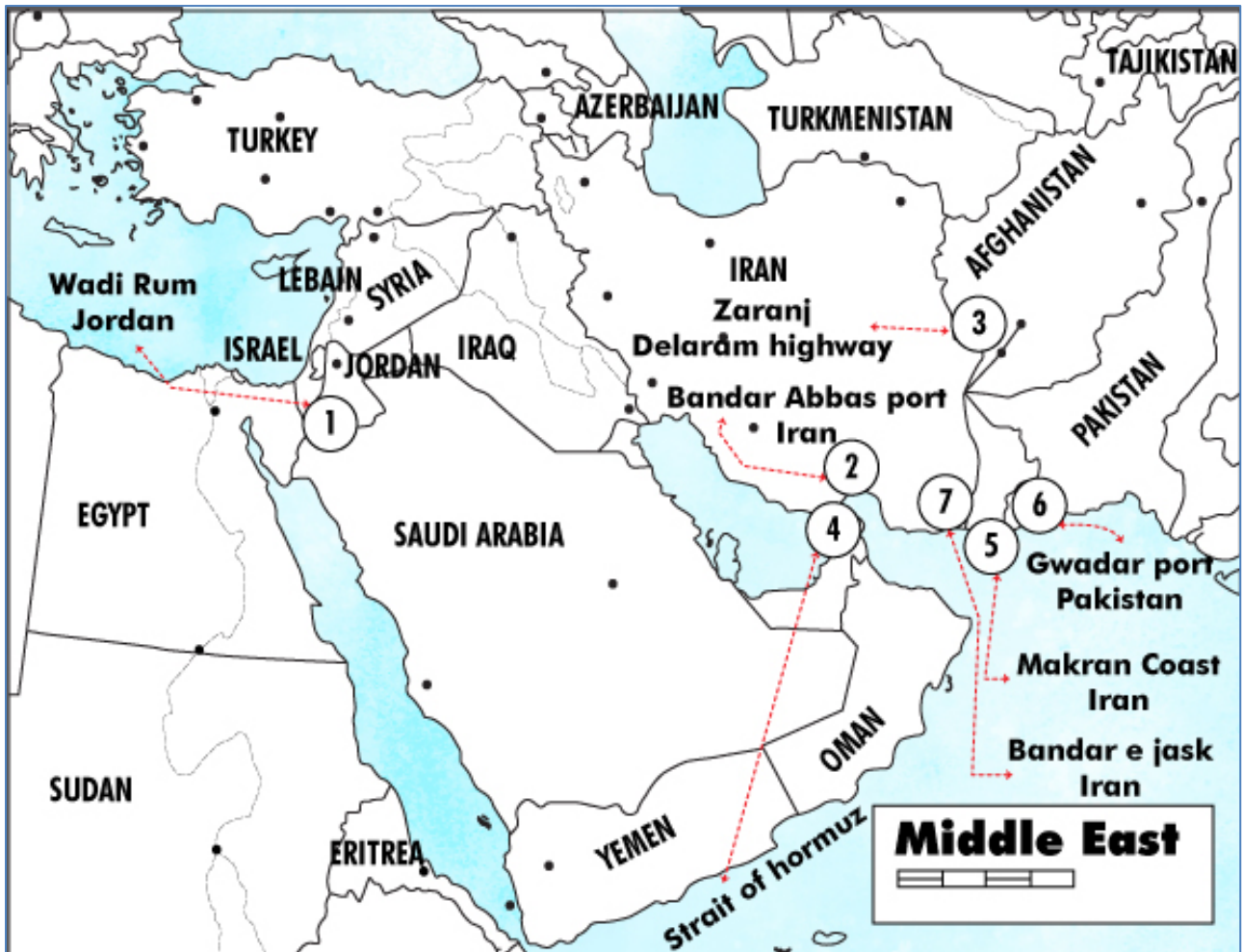
- **Hussein-McMahon (1915) correspondence** contained British support of an independent Arab state for Arab assistance in opposing the Ottoman Empire.

- In 1917, during World War I, the British captured Palestine from the Ottoman Empire after the **Sykes-Picot Agreement** with France (1916).
- Later in **Balfour Declaration (1917)**, Britain pledged establishment of Palestine as national home for Jews.
- The British Mandate period saw rise in immigration of Jews to the Mandate of Palestine. During World War II, the persecution of Jews by Nazi Germany gave momentum to the demands for a state for Jews in Palestine. This led to a conflict between Arabs and Jews i.e. Israel-Palestine conflict and Arab-Israel wars.
- **In 1947 the United Nations voted to split the Palestine between Arabs and Jews.**
 - Jewish leadership accepted while Arabs rejected the agreement.
 - Consequently, Arab states of **Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon and Syria** declared war on Israel.
- **Israel won the war and expanded its territory reducing Palestine to just Gaza strip and West bank.**
 - It was the beginning of this Palestine refugee crisis which ultimately led to the creation of **PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization)** in 1964.
- After a **series of wars in 1956 (Six-day War) and 1973 (Yom Kipper War)** between Israel and Arab States. In 1993, PLO signed **OSLO Accord** with Israel that provides for Palestinian interim self-government in West bank and Gaza strip. (However, Israel backtracked and refused to consider Palestine as a free country.)
- The issue was further complicated by the establishment of **settlements** by Israel in the occupied West Bank.
- In 2011 Palestine launched a diplomatic campaign to gain membership in the UN for the state of Palestine. Same year, it was **admitted in UNESCO as a full member**, however the Palestinian struggle to be an independent nation is still going on.

About West Bank

- Since the Six-Day War in 1967, **West Bank has been occupied by Israel**. Both Israelis and Palestinians assert their rights to the territory of the West Bank.
- Palestinians who live in the West Bank live **under Israeli military rule, as well as limited self-rule**.
- Also present in the West Bank are some **132 Israeli settlements and 124 unauthorized settlements**, along with military outposts.





S.N.	Location	About
1	Wadi Rum, Jordan	It is a desert that lies in far south of Jordan. It is also called valley of Moon.
2	Bandar Abbas port, Iran	INS Jalashwa departed from this port to bring back stranded citizens from Iran under operation Samudra Setu.
3	Zaranj-Delaram highway	Part of India-Afghanistan-Iran transport-and-trade corridor.
4	Strait of Hormuz	Connects Persian Gulf with Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea.
5	Makran Coast, Iran	Chabahar port is located on Makran coast of the Sistan-Balochistan province
6	Gwadar port, Pakistan	Developed by China.
7	Bandar e Jask, Iran	Strategic port near Chabahar.

5. USA

5.1. INDIA-US DEFENCE AGREEMENT

Why in News?

India and the United States will sign the landmark defence pact, **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)** during the third round of 2 + 2 India-US ministerial dialogue.

More in News

- A ‘two plus two dialogue’ is a term used for installation of a **dialogue mechanism between two countries’ defence and external affairs ministries** to discuss strategic and security interests.
 - India has also established a 2+2 dialogue mechanism **with other Quad countries Japan and Australia.**
- **Key Highlight of 3rd Meet**
 - **Advancing the Defense and Security Partnership:** Signing of **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA).**
 - BECA is the final of the four foundational agreements that the US signs with close partners.
 - Foundational agreements are meant to build basic groundwork and promote interoperability between militaries by creating common standards and systems. They also guide sale and transfer of high-end technologies.
 - **Strengthening Bilateral U.S.-India Cooperation:** Some key Agreement signed for
 - Technical Cooperation on Earth Sciences.
 - Extending the arrangement on nuclear cooperation.
 - Agreement on postal services.
 - Cooperation in Ayurveda and cancer research
- **Cooperation during COVID-19 Pandemic:** Ministers sought to jointly promote access to high quality, safe, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines and treatments on a global scale.

Four foundational agreements

Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) for Geospatial Intelligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BECA will allow India and US militaries to share geospatial and satellite data with each other. It shares <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maps, charts, commercial and other unclassified imagery. ○ Geodetic, geophysical, geomagnetic and gravity data. ○ Related products, publications and materials, in printed or digital formats. ○ Mutual technical assistance and technology information exchanges. • It will allow India to use the US’s advanced geospatial intelligence and enhance the accuracy of automated systems and weapons like missiles and armed drones. • It was signed in 2020
Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEMOA gives access, to both countries, to designated military facilities on either side for the purpose of refuelling and replenishment. • The agreement will primarily cover four areas — port calls, joint exercises, training and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. Any other requirement has to be agreed upon by both sides on a case-by-case basis. • There will be no basing of the U.S. troops or assets on Indian soil. This is purely a logistical agreement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ India can access the string of U.S. facilities across the globe for logistical support and the U.S., which operates in a big way in Asia-Pacific, will benefit from Indian facilities. • It was signed in 2016.
Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is an India-specific version of Communications and Information Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA). • It allows both sides to operate on the same communication systems, enabling an “interoperable” environment for militaries. • It provides the legal framework for the US to part with its sensitive communication equipment and codes to enable transfer of realtime operational information. • It allows India to procure transfer specialised equipment for encrypted communications for US origin military platforms like the C-17, C-130 and P-8Is. • It was signed in 2018 and valid for 10 years.
General Security of Military	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It facilitates opportunities for greater intelligence sharing between India and US. Recently, Industrial Security Annex (ISA) to GSOMIA was concluded between both countries.

Information Agreement (GSOMIA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISA provides a framework for exchange and protection of classified military information between U.S. and Indian defence industries. Under GSOMIA, such information is exchanged between Government authorities. It was signed in 2002.
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5.1.1. U.S.-INDIA STRATEGIC ENERGY PARTNERSHIP (SEP)

Why in News?

Recently, a virtual ministerial meeting of the U.S.-India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) to review progress held.

More in News

- SEP was established in 2018, to **enhance energy security** through inter-agency engagement on both sides across **four primary pillars of cooperation**: Power and Energy Efficiency, Oil and Gas, Renewable Energy and Sustainable Growth.
- Key highlights:**
 - Memorandum of understanding (MoU) for **cooperation on operation and maintenance of strategic petroleum reserves**. Possibility of India storing oil in US Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) is also discussed.
 - US' SPR capacity is 714 million barrels while India's SPR capacity is 38 million barrels.
 - Public-private Hydrogen Task Force launched** to help scale up technologies to produce hydrogen to bring down cost.
- India-USA Energy Cooperation**
 - Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE)**, to accelerate inclusive, low carbon growth by supporting research and deployment of clean energy technologies.
 - Modernizing Power System:** Collaboration on advanced high-efficiency coal technologies, establishing "Global Centre of Excellence" for Smart Grids in India etc.
 - "Retrofit of Air Conditioning to Improve Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency" (RAISE)** programme for healthy and energy efficient buildings.
 - Bilateral hydrocarbon trade is **US\$ 9.2 billion during 2019-20**, marking a 93% increase since 2017-18.

Related News

US-India 2020 Summit of US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (US-ISPF)

- Prime Minister **addressed the summit.**
- Talks were held on **Opportunities in India's Gas Market, Ease of Doing Business, Common Opportunities & Challenges in Tech Space.**
- USISPF is a **non-profit organization** that works for the partnership between India and the U.S.

फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन

प्रारंभिक एवं मुख्य परीक्षा 2022

इनोवेटिव क्लासरूम प्रोग्राम

- प्रारंभिक परीक्षा, मुख्य परीक्षा और निबंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी टॉपिक को विस्तृत कवरेज
- मौलिक अवधारणाओं की समझ के विकास एवं विश्लेषणात्मक क्षमता निर्माण पर विशेष ध्यान
- एनीमेशन, पॉवर प्वाइंट, वीडियो जैसी तकनीकी सुविधाओं का प्रयोग
- अंतर - विषयक समझ विकसित करने का प्रयास
- योजनाबद्ध तैयारी हेतु करंट ओरिएंटेड अप्रोच
- नियमित क्लास टेस्ट एवं व्यक्तिगत मूल्यांकन

- सीसेट कक्षाएं
- PT 365 कक्षाएं
- MAINS 365 कक्षाएं
- PT टेस्ट सीरीज
- मुख्य परीक्षा टेस्ट सीरीज
- निबंध टेस्ट सीरीज
- सीसेट टेस्ट सीरीज
- निबंध लेखन - शैली की कक्षाएं
- करेंट अफेयर्स मैगजीन

DELHI: 3 June | 1:30 PM | 23 March | 1:30 PM

JAIPUR 17 March

कक्षाएं ऑनलाइन आयोजित की जाएंगी।
ऑफलाइन कक्षाएं सरकारी नियमों और छात्रों की सुरक्षा के अधीन उपलब्ध होंगी।

लाइव/ऑनलाइन कक्षाएं भी उपलब्ध

6. EUROPE

6.1. INDIA-E.U. RELATIONS

Why in news?

Recently, the 15th India- European Union (EU) Summit was held through a virtual medium.



About European Union

- It is an economic and political union involving 27 European countries.
- It allows **free trade and free movement of people, to live, trade and work in whichever country they choose.**
- **Article 50 of Lisbon Treaty provides for exit of member countries from European Union.**
- For any country to come out of European Union, **it has to negotiate a settlement deal with EU.**
- It has its own currency, the **euro, which is used by 19 of the member countries, its own parliament and other institutions**
- The United Kingdom joined it in 1973.

Overview of India- E.U. Relations

Related Information

European Union Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA)

- Vietnam’s National Assembly ratified the **European Union Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) and the EU-Vietnam Investment Protection Agreement (EVIPA)** paving the way for it to take effect.
- EVFTA is the **second FTA between the EU and an ASEAN country, after Singapore.**
 - It would **abolish 99% of customs duties**, eliminate bureaucratic hurdles by aligning regulatory standards for goods like cars and medicines, and ensure easier market access for both European and Vietnamese companies.
- This is the **first FTA that has been signed after the outbreak of the global COVID-19** pandemic that has resulted in a disruption of supply chains.
- **EVIPA**, a part of a free trade agreement (FTA), is an agreement between EU and Vietnam, which **aims to protect investors and investments in a host country.**
- In many segments, **India is closely competing with Vietnam.**
 - Since Vietnam has signed an FTA, India will have to **face major impacts in those segments** over a period of time.

Mobilize Your City (MYC) programme

- Mobilise Your City (MYC) is part of an international initiative which **is supported by the French and the German Governments and was launched at 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) meeting in December, 2015.**
 - The MobiliseYourCity programme in India is implemented with the support of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Government of India at the national level.
 - Other key stakeholders, such as Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), Kochi Municipal Corporation (KMC), Nagpur Smart and Sustainable City Development Corporation Limited (NSSCDCL), contribute to the implementation of the programme at the city level.
- The MobiliseYourCity Partnership aims to empowers 100 cities and 20 countries to improve urban mobility for their citizens and decarbonise transport to fight the global climate crisis.

Brexit Trade Deal

- The United Kingdom and the European Union have agreed to a post-Brexit free trade deal i.e. The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), sealing the UK's exit from the bloc.
- **Brexit** - or "British exit" - **refers to the process of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.**
- Following a **referendum in 2016, Britain became the first country to leave the EU in January 2020** after which an 11-month transition period was kicked-in in accordance with the withdrawal agreement.
- The UK and European Union have finally agreed a deal that will define their future relationship.

Background	Economic and commercial relations	Defence and security cooperation	Cooperation in Science and Technology	People to People Relations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India-EU relations date to the early 1960s, with India being amongst the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with 	<p>EU as a block is India's largest trading partner, accounting for €80 billion worth of trade in goods in 2019 (11.1% of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region in New Delhi (IFC-IOR) has recently been linked-up with the Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSC-HOA) established by the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EU is supporting the Mobilize Your City (MYC) programme in India currently in three pilot cities to reduce their urban transport-related Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. ○ India and the EU set up an Energy Panel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both signed Horizontal Agreement on Civil Aviation in 2018 to boost bilateral travel and tourism. • Both sides also inked the Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) in

<p>the European Economic Community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First India-EU Summit took place in 2000. In 2004, the relationship was upgraded to a 'Strategic Partnership'. 	<p>total Indian trade).</p>	<p>EU Naval Force (NAVFOR).</p>	<p>in 2005 for cooperation in energy and energy security and both cooperate on forums such as EU-India Clean Energy Cooperation and India-EU Water Partnership.</p>	<p>2016 as a framework for cooperation on migration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are over 50,000 Indian students currently studying in various European Universities, many of whom are under EU's Erasmus Mundus scholarship programme for higher education.
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7. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION/ INSTITUTIONS

7.1. INDIA ELECTED NON-PERMANENT MEMBER OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)

Why in news?

India has been elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a two-year term.

More on news

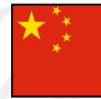
- India, the only endorsed **candidate from the Asia-Pacific States**, won 184 votes out of the 192 ballots cast in the elections. India's two-year term as the non-permanent member of the UNSC would **begin from January 1, 2021**.
- It will be **India's 8th term** as non-permanent member at the UNSC. Previously, India was elected for 1950-1951, 1967-1968, 1972-1973, 1977-1978, 1984-1985, 1991-1992 and most recently in 2011-2012.
- Along with India, Ireland, Mexico and Norway also won the Security Council elections for the non-permanent membership.
- At UNSC, **India pledged to be guided by the five priorities** under the overarching theme of **NORMS: New Orientation for a Reformed Multilateral System**. They are new opportunities for progress, effective response to international terrorism, reforming multilateral systems, comprehensive approach to international peace and security and technology with a human touch. India will pursue these priorities through a **Five-S approach**: Samman (Respect), Samvad (Dialogue), Sahyog (Cooperation), Shanti (Peace) and Samridधि (Prosperity).

UN Security Council members

5 Permanent Members (having Veto Powers)



US



CHINA



UK

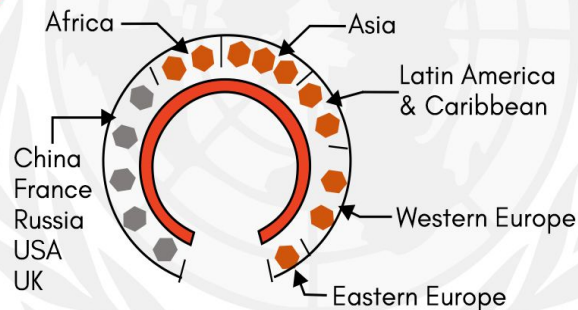


RUSSIA



FRANCE

10 Non-Permanent Members (no Veto Powers)



- Each year, the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members for a two year term by a two-thirds majority.
- A retiring member is not eligible for immediate re-election. The election is held by secret ballot and there are no nominations.
- The 10 non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis
 - 5 from African and Asian States
 - 2 from Latin American States
 - 1 from Eastern European States
 - 2 from Western European and other States

Related News

- India chairing the committees on Terrorism**
 - India is a leading voice at the UN in the fight against the global scourge of terrorism, particularly the threat posed in the region by cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.
 - The three committees are highly significant subsidiary bodies of the UNSC and India chairing them is a ringing endorsement of the country's leadership to steer the panels.
 - Counter-Terrorism Committee:** The committee was established after the 9/11 terror attack in the United States and it works to bolster the ability of UN member states to prevent terrorist acts both within their borders and across regions.
 - Taliban Sanctions Committee:** also known as the 1988 Sanctions Committee. The committee designates individuals and entities for participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing or perpetrating of acts; supplying, selling or transferring arms; recruiting and supporting acts or activities of groups, undertakings and entities associated with the Taliban. The listed entities and individuals are subject to an assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo.
 - Libya Sanctions Committee:** Under the Committee, all member states are required to prevent the sale or supply of arms and related material to Libya; prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of all listed individuals; freeze all funds, other financial assets and economic resources that are owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the listed individuals or entities.

- Other committee related to terrorism
 - UNSC Committee 1267 was established in 1999, by Resolution 1267, which imposed a limited air embargo and asset freeze on the Taliban.

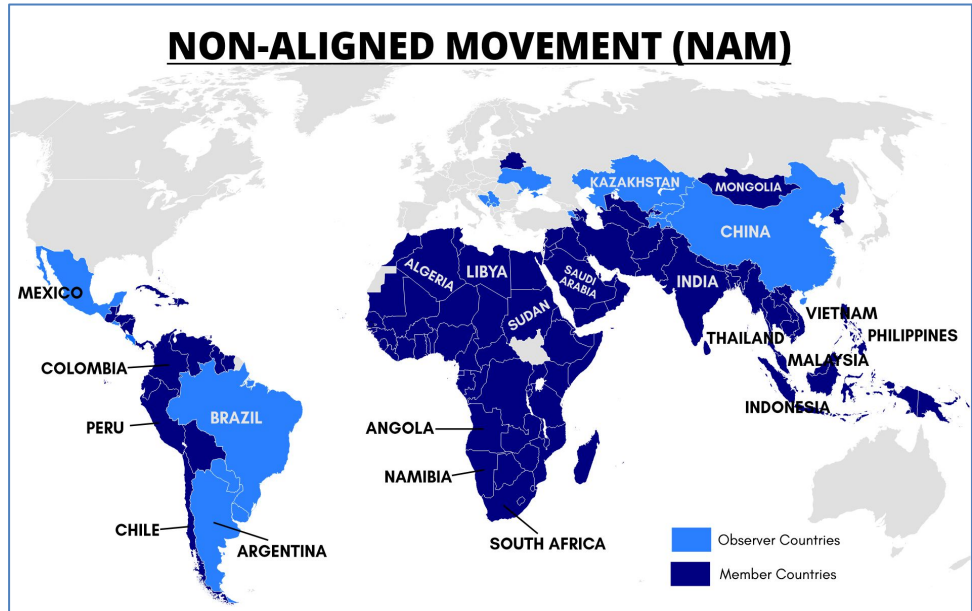
7.2. NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

Why in news?

Indian Prime Minister participated in online Summit of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Contact Group 2020 to declare solidarity during COVID-19 Pandemic.

More on news

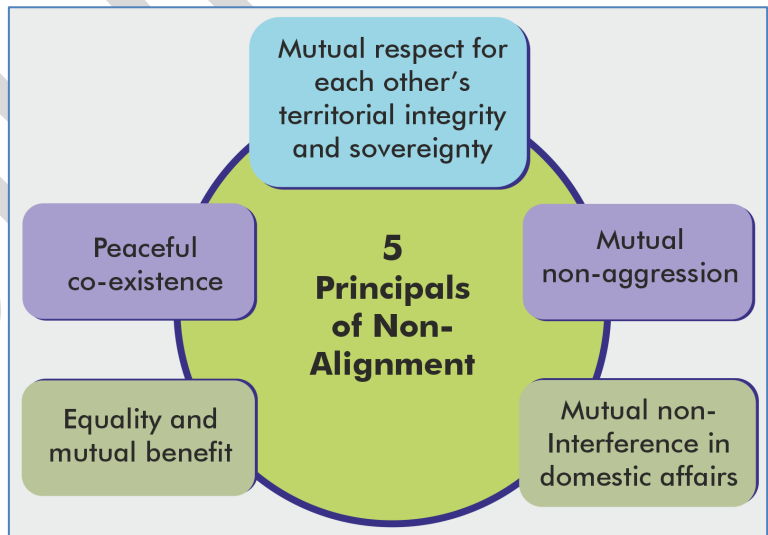
- Themed ‘United against COVID-19’ the Summit was aimed to promote international solidarity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Host - President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, current Chairman of NAM grouping.
- NAM leaders announced creation of a task force to identify requirements of member countries through a common database reflecting their basic medical, social and humanitarian needs in the fight against COVID-19.



identify requirements of member countries through a common database reflecting their basic medical, social and humanitarian needs in the fight against COVID-19.

About Non-Aligned Movement

- The Non-Aligned Movement was formed during the Cold War as an organization of States that did not formally align themselves with either the United States or the Soviet Union but sought to remain independent or neutral.
- Origin: Asia-Africa Conference held in Bandung, Indonesia in 1955.
- NAM’s first conference - The Belgrade Conference held in 1961 under the leadership of India, Yugoslavia, Egypt, Ghana, and Indonesia.
- The policy of NAM was based on the 5 principles of Panchsheel.
- It has 120 members comprising 53 countries from Africa, 39 from Asia, 26 from Latin America and the Caribbean and 2 from Europe (Belarus, Azerbaijan).
 - There are 17 countries and 10 international organizations that are Observers at NAM.



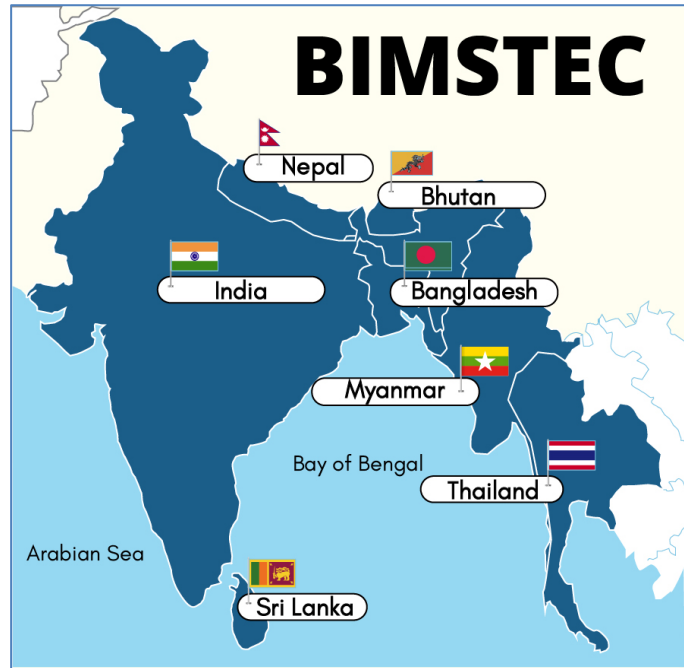
7.3. BAY OF BENGAL INITIATIVE FOR MULTI-SECTORAL TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (BIMSTEC)

Why in News?

BIMSTEC Secretariat has finalized BIMSTEC charter after 23 years of its inception.

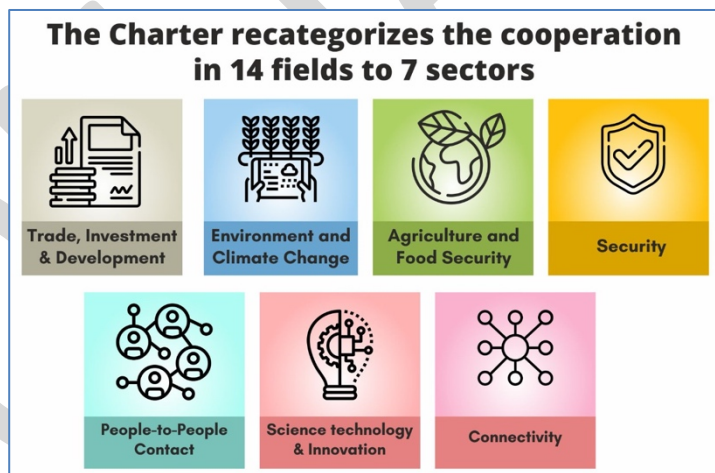
More in News

- Charter is due to be signed in fifth summit, scheduled for January next year at Sri Lanka.
- Charter is expected to
 - define a long-term vision and priorities for cooperation,
 - clearly delineating roles and responsibilities of different layers of institutional structure and
 - define decision-making processes.
- In absence of a dedicated charter, BIMSTEC is running with the spirit of Bangkok Declaration of 1997 which:
 - is not comprehensive in nature.
 - does not account for the changed geo-political scenario as it was signed way back in 1997.



About BIMSTEC

- BIMSTEC was established in 1997 as BISTEC with four countries: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- It was named BIMSTEC in 2004 after Myanmar (1997), Nepal (2004) and Bhutan (2004) joined it.
- 1st Summit meeting was held in Bangkok in 2004.
- Its Secretariat is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- BIMSTEC region is home to around 1.5 billion people which make up for around 22% of the world’s population. The region has a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of \$2.8 trillion.
- **Founding principles:** cooperation within BIMSTEC will be based on respect for the principle of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful co-existence and mutual benefit.
- **Areas of Cooperation:** BIMSTEC has identified 14 priority areas where a member country takes lead.
 - India is lead country for Transport & Communication, Tourism, Environment & Disaster Management and Counter Terrorism & Transnational Crime.



7.4. BRICS

Why in news?

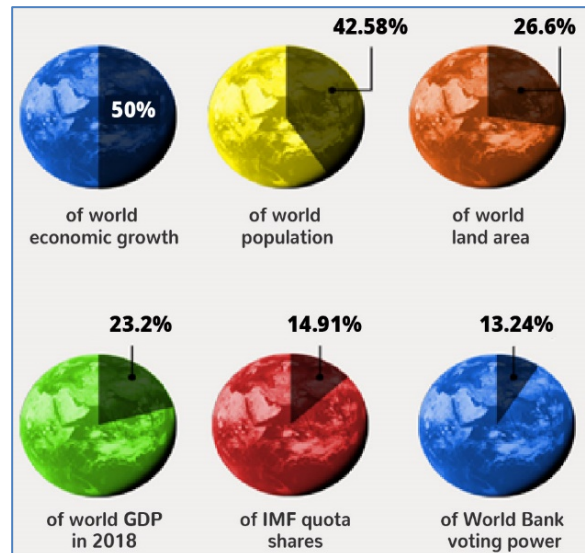
The 2020 BRICS Summit was held virtually under the chairmanship of Russia, which adopted the motto for the year as ‘BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth’.

About BRICS

- BRICS started in 2001 as BRIC, an acronym coined by Goldman Sachs for Brazil, Russia, India, and China. South Africa was added in 2010. The notion behind the coinage was that the nations' economies would come to collectively dominate global growth by 2050.
- The BRICS grouping aims to promote peace, security, development and cooperation in the world. It also aims at making a positive impact on the development of humanity and establishing a more equitable and fairer world.

Achievements of BRICS

- **New Development Bank (NDB):** It was created in the 6th BRICS summit in Brazil, on the lines of Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.
 - China is the largest shareholder in NDB followed by India.
 - The Bank has reserved \$10 billion to combat the pandemic, while its overall portfolio of investment projects now exceeds \$20 billion.
 - 62 large projects are being implemented in the BRICS countries with increasing number of bank's regional offices.
 - The bank is currently preparing to accept new members – most likely Uruguay, the United Arab Emirates and the Philippines – thus expanding its global footprint.
 - India was the main BRICS country behind the establishment of the NDB and has remained the **LARGEST BENEFICIARY** of NDB loans so far.
- **Setting up the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA):** to provide mutual financial support, and as a contribution to the global financial safety net.
- **Medical cooperation: Ufa Declaration** was adopted in the 7th summit in 2015 and included an agreement to work together to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Also, the proposal of setting up a **BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Centre** was mooted and endorsed in the 10th summit in 2018.
- **BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Framework Programme** pioneered in 2015 helped scientists and researchers to stay connected and effectively exchange their findings to better facilitate a common response to COVID-19.
- **Expanding trade:** Over the past five years, intra-BRICS exports grew by 45% and the share of intra-BRICS exports in total BRICS international trade increased from 7.7% to 10%.
- **Other areas:**
 - **BRICS Payments Task Force** as a step towards cooperation between central banks and other financial institutions on national payments systems.
 - **BRICS Rapid Information Security Channel** to promote the exchange of information on cyber threats among their central banks.



Brics A Brief History

- 2001
Idea first cited in Goldman Sachs report
- SEPT 2006
Foreign ministers meet in NYC
- JUNE 2009
First official summit in Russia
- DEC 2010
South Africa joins

Related News

Recently, first meeting of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues was held.

- The meeting for **BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI)** held under India's Chair.
- The theme of BRICS this year is '**BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus**'.
- It presented the calendar of events for BRICS CGETI 2021, which included the priority areas for **deliverables, schedule and scope of the MSME roundtable conference** workshop on Services Statistics, and the BRICS Trade Fair.
- The **deliverables proposed** in meeting are on-
 - Action plan based on the document "**Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025**" adopted during Russian Presidency in 2020.
 - **BRICS Cooperation on Multilateral Trading system** including cooperation for the TRIPS Waiver proposal at WTO.
 - Framework for **Consumer Protection in E-Commerce**.

- **Non-Tariff Measures (NTM) Resolution Mechanism and Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) Working Mechanism.**
- Co-operation framework for **protection of Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge.**
- BRICS Framework on **Co-operation in Professional Services.**

7.5. 17TH ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT

Why in news?

Recently, 17th ASEAN-India Summit was held virtually.

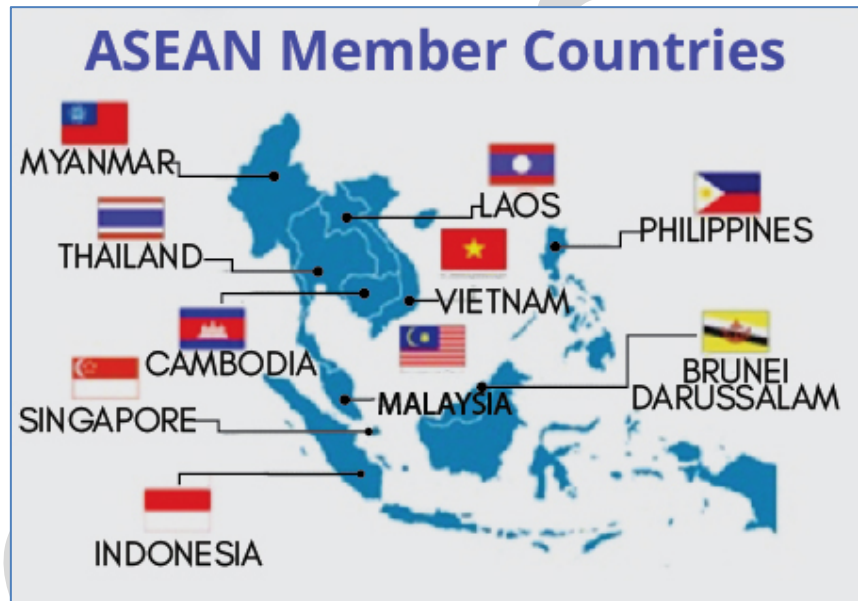
Key Highlights of the Summit

- India announced a contribution of **US\$ 1 million to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund.**

- Both India and ASEAN welcomed the adoption of the new **ASEAN-India Plan of Action for 2021-2025.**

- The new Plan of Action (POA) builds upon the achievements made under the previous POAs for 2010-2015 and 2016-2020 and guides the implementation of ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership.

- The POA elucidates future strategies and possible engagements across varied fields including- Political Cooperation, Maritime Cooperation, Transnational Crime and Counterterrorism, Trade and Investment, Transport, Agriculture and Forestry, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Tourism, Science, Technology and Innovation, Climate Change etc.



- India reiterated its offer of **US\$ 1 billion Line of Credit to support ASEAN connectivity** for greater physical and digital connectivity between ASEAN and India.
- Both sides also started discussions for determining the scope of review of India-ASEAN free trade agreement (FTA) at the earliest with a view to make the pact more user-friendly, simple, and trade facilitative for businesses.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- It is an intergovernmental organization of ten Southeast Asian countries: **Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.**
- It promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and sociocultural integration among its members and other countries.
- India became a **Strategic Partner of ASEAN in 2012**, after progressing from its earlier roles of Sectoral Partner (1992), Dialogue Partner (1996) and Summit Level Partner (2002).
- The India-ASEAN Strategic Partnership acquired a new momentum with the announcement of **“Act-East Policy”** in the 12th Summit in 2014.
 - **India's Act East Policy** provides the guiding framework to take forward the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership to the next level and recognizes connectivity in its broadest sense to **include physical, economic, political and people-to-people connectivity.**
- **India has a Free Trade Agreement with ASEAN** spanning goods, services and investment.
- In 2013, **India became the third dialogue partner of ASEAN** to initiate an ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee-India Meeting.

7.6. REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP) AND INDIA

Why in News?

Recently, 15 Asia-Pacific nations have signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), while India chose to opt out of the trade agreement.

About RCEP

- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that has been signed between 15 countries including the 10 ASEAN members, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.
- It now forms the **world's largest trade bloc**, covering over 2.2 billion people and accounting for 30 per cent of the world's economy.
- The RCEP was first proposed at the 19th ASEAN meet in 2011 with an aim to create a consolidated market for the ASEAN countries and their trade partners.
- While India was a part of the RCEP's negotiations, it dropped out in November 2019, citing significant outstanding issues that remain unresolved. Although **India has been given the option of joining it later.**



7.7. UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Why in News?

Pakistan has been re-elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council despite opposition from activist groups over its abysmal human rights records.

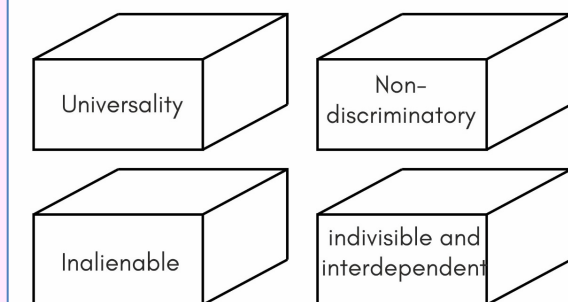
United Nations Human Rights Council

- UN Human Rights Council (Council or HRC) was **established in 2006 by UN General Assembly (UNGA)** resolution 60/251. It is the principle intergovernmental body within the United Nations (UN) system **responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe**, and for addressing and taking action on human rights violations around the globe.
 - Human Rights Council **replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights.**
- Council is made up of **47 member States who are elected by the UN General Assembly by a simple majority vote**, through a secret ballot. Members of the Council are **elected for three-year terms with one-third of the members being renewed each year.**

What are human rights?

- Human rights are rights we have simply because we exist as human beings – **they are not granted by any state.** These universal rights are inherent to us all, regardless of nationality, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status.
- They **range from the most fundamental – the right to life – to those that make life worth living, such as the rights to food, education, work, health, and liberty.**
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948, was the first legal document to set out the fundamental human rights to be universally protected.
 - UDHR, together with the 2 covenants – the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – make up the International Bill of Rights.

Four key features of Human Rights



- Council membership is based on **equitable geographical distribution of seats** according to the following regional breakdown: 13 African States; 13 Asia-Pacific States; 8 Latin American and Caribbean States; 7 Western European and other States; 6 Eastern European States.
 - **All U.N. members are eligible to run for a seat** on the Council.
 - 117 countries have served as Council members so far, reflecting the UN's diversity giving it legitimacy when speaking out on human rights violations in all countries.
- **It holds three regular sessions per year of a total of at least ten weeks** and can call special sessions to react quickly to urgent country and thematic situations.
- Its **decisions, resolutions, and recommendations are not legally binding**.
 - As a subsidiary of the General Assembly, it reports directly to the Assembly's 193 members. It receives substantive and technical support from the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), an office within the U.N. Secretariat.
- In 2018, **US pulled out of the UNHRC** calling it a "cesspool of political bias" that "makes a mockery of human rights".

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

- OHCHR, a department of the United Nations Secretariat, is mandated **to promote and protect the enjoyment and full realization, by all people, of all rights established in the Charter of the United Nations** and in international human rights laws and treaties.
- The mandate includes **preventing human rights violations, securing respect for all human rights, promoting international cooperation to protect human rights, coordinating related activities** throughout the United Nations, and strengthening and streamlining the United Nations system in the field of human rights.
- In addition to its mandated responsibilities, the Office leads **efforts to integrate a human rights approach within all work carried out by United Nations agencies**.

7.8. INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Why in News?

Recently, US President has authorized economic sanctions against officials of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for their investigation into alleged war crimes by U.S. forces and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Afghanistan since 2003.

About ICC

- ICC is a **permanent international court established to investigate, prosecute and try individuals** accused of committing the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole, **namely the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression**.
- It was **established by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 1998**.
 - Court has jurisdiction only over crimes committed after July 1, 2002, when the Rome Statute entered into force.
- There are **123 countries party to the Rome Statute**.
 - **Countries which never signed the treaty:** India, China, Iraq, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Turkey etc
 - **Countries signed but not ratified the treaty:** includes Egypt, Iran, Israel, Russia, United States etc
 - Burundi and the Philippines joined the ICC but later withdrew.
- ICC does not replace national criminal justice systems; rather, it complements them.
- **Cases come before the court in following ways:**
 - a member country can refer a situation within its own territory to the court;
 - UN Security Council can refer a situation;
 - prosecutor can launch an investigation into a member state proprio motu, or "on one's own initiative."

ICC VS INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Feature	International Court of Justice (ICJ)	International Criminal Court (ICC)
Year Court Established	1946	2002
UN-Relationship	Official court of the U.N., commonly referred to as the "World Court."	Independent. May receive case referrals from the UN Security Council. Can initiate prosecutions without UN action or referral.
Location	Peace Palace , The Hague, The Netherlands	The Hague, The Netherlands
Jurisdiction	U.N. member-states (i.e. national governments)	Individuals
Types of Cases	(1) Contentious between parties, (2) Advisory opinions	Criminal prosecution of individuals
Subject Matter	Sovereignty, boundary disputes, maritime disputes, trade, natural resources, human rights, treaty violations, treaty interpretation, and more	Genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, crimes of aggression
Authorizing Legal Mechanism	States that ratify the U.N. Charter become parties to the ICJ Statute under Article 93. Non-UN member states can also become parties to the ICJ by ratifying the ICJ Statute. Each state must provide consent to any contentious case by explicit agreement, declaration, or treaty clause.	Rome Statute (India has not signed the Rome Statute)
Appeals	None. The ICJ decision in a contentious case is binding upon the parties. If a State fails to comply with the judgment, the issue may be taken to the UN Security Council, which has the authority to review, recommend, and decide upon enforcement.	Appeals Chamber. Article 80 of the Rome Statute allows retention of an acquitted defendant pending appeal.

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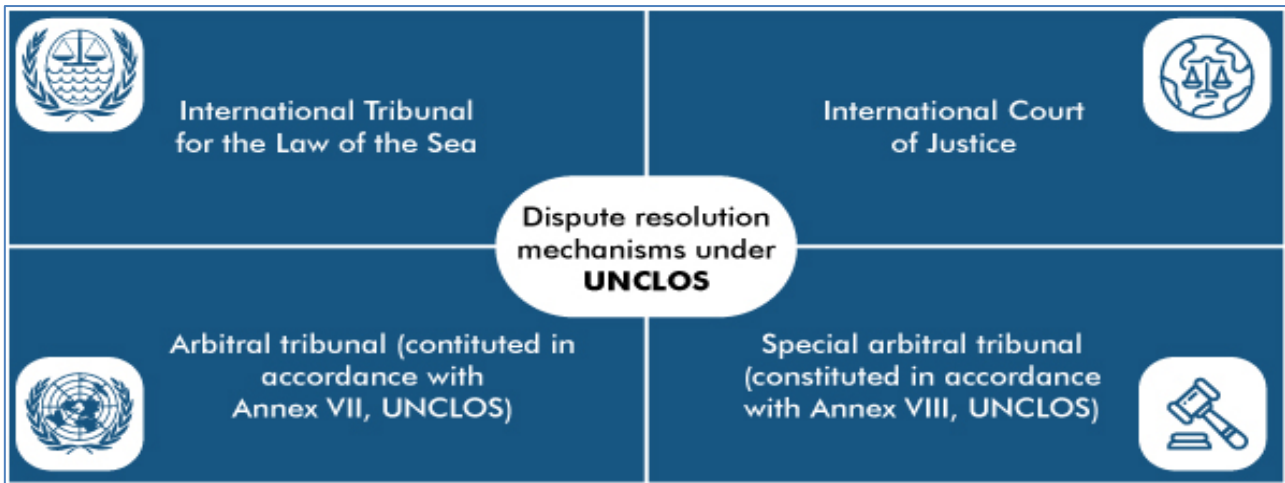
7.9. UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS)

Why in news?

Recently, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) has given the ruling in Enrica Lexie case for killing of two Keralite fishermen.

More about news

- The Enrica Lexie case is an **ongoing international controversy about a shooting off two Indian fishermen** at the western coast of India in 2012 by two Italian Marines.
- In 2015, Italy had filed case against India for detaining its two marines and took the case to **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)** under **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**.
 - ITLOS had later referred the matter to **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)**.



About UNCLOS

- It is an international agreement that resulted from the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III).
 - It was adopted in 1982 and replaced the quad-treaty 1958 Convention on the High Seas and came into force in 1994.
- It is also called the Law of the Sea Convention or the Law of the Sea treaty.
- It defines the rights and responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources.
- Currently 167 countries and the European Union have joined in the Convention.
- India signed the Convention in 1982 and ratified in 1995.
- The Convention has created three new institutions on the international scene:

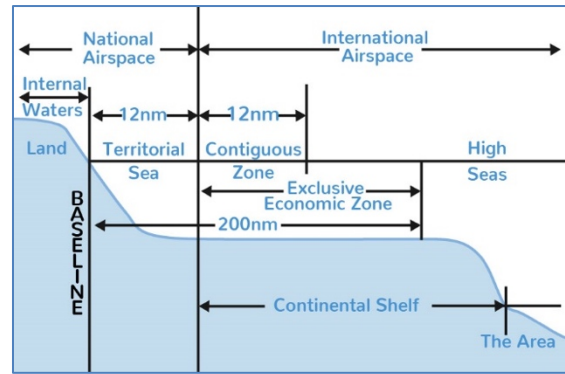
Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

- It was established by the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, concluded at The Hague in 1899.
- It is an intergovernmental organization providing a variety of dispute resolution services involving various combinations of states, state entities, international organizations and private parties.
- PCA has a three-part organizational structure consisting of:
 - an Administrative Council that oversees its policies and budgets,
 - a panel of independent potential arbitrators known as the Members of the Court,
 - its Secretariat, known as the International Bureau, headed by the Secretary-General.
- It's headquartered is situated in Hague, Netherlands.
- India is its member.

<p>International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an independent judicial body established by the UNCLOS to adjudicate disputes arising out of the interpretation and application of the Convention. Disputes relating to the Convention related to the living resources of the sea, protection and preservation of the marine concern the delimitation of maritime zones, navigation, conservation and management environment and marine scientific research. It is composed of 21 independent members. It is open to States Parties to the Convention and other than States Parties like state enterprises and private entities. 	<p>International Seabed Authority (ISA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an intergovernmental body based in Kingston, Jamaica, established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It is mandated to organize, regulate and control all mineral-related activities in the international seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, an area underlying most of the world's oceans. All Parties to the 1982 UNCLOS are members of ISA. 	<p>Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has been assigned to play mainly two significant roles in the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles of a Coastal State. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to evaluate the claim of a Coastal State for an area of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles. provide scientific and technical advice to the Coastal State in its preparation of its submission of the claim. It shall consist of 21 members who shall be experts in the field of geology, geophysics or hydrography, elected by States Parties to the Convention from among their nationals.
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UNCLOS divides marine areas into five main zones:

- There is the **low-water line called Baseline along the coast** as officially recognized by the coastal state.
- **Internal Waters:** These are waters on the landward side of the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.
 - Each coastal state has full sovereignty over its internal waters as like its land territory. E.g. bays, ports, inlets, rivers and lakes that are connected to the sea.
- **Territorial Sea:** It extends seaward up to 12 nautical miles (nm) from its baselines.
 - The coastal states have sovereignty and jurisdiction over the territorial sea. These rights extend not only on the surface but also to the seabed, subsoil, and even airspace.
- **Contiguous Zone:** It extends seaward up to 24 nm from its baselines.
 - It is an intermediary zone between the territorial sea and the high seas.
 - The coastal state has the right to both prevent and punish infringement of fiscal, immigration, sanitary, and customs laws within its territory and territorial sea.
 - Unlike the territorial sea, the contiguous zone only gives jurisdiction to a state on the ocean’s surface and floor. It does not provide air and space rights.
- **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):** Each coastal State may claim an EEZ beyond and adjacent to its territorial sea that extends seaward up to 200 nm from its baselines.
 - Within EEZ, a coastal state has sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing natural resources, whether living or non-living, of the seabed and subsoil.
 - Rights to carry out activities like the production of energy from the water, currents and wind.
 - Unlike the territorial sea and the contiguous zone, the EEZ only allows for the above-mentioned resource rights. It does not give a coastal state the right to prohibit or limit freedom of navigation or overflight, subject to very limited exceptions.
- **High Seas:** The ocean surface and the water column beyond the EEZ are referred to as the high seas.
 - It is beyond any national jurisdiction. States can conduct activities in these areas as long as they are for peaceful purposes, such as transit, marine science, and undersea exploration.



7.10. WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (WHA)

Why in news?

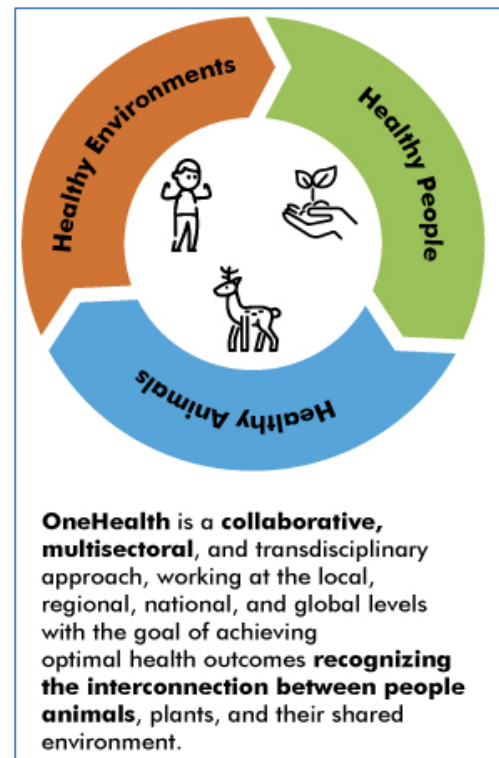
Recently 73rd World Health Assembly (WHA) was convened which was the first ever virtual health assembly.

About WHA

- WHA is the **decision-making body** of World Health Organisation (WHO).
- It is **attended by delegations** from all WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by WHO Executive Board.
- **Main functions** of WHA:
 - determine the policies of WHO,
 - appoint the Director-General,
 - supervise financial policies and
 - review and approve proposed programme budget.
- WHA is **held annually in Geneva, Switzerland.**

Key Outcomes of WHA

- WHA adopted the **resolution for impartial, independent and comprehensive** evaluation of the WHO’s response to the pandemic as well as the identification of the “zoonotic” **source of the coronavirus.**



- It specifically mentions to evaluate the **actions of WHO and their timelines pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- Called for **universal, timely and equitable access and fair distribution** of all quality, safe, efficacious and affordable essential health technologies and products in response to COVID-19.
- Called for **removal unjustified obstacles** in consistent with agreement on **Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement)** and the flexibilities within **Doha Declaration on TRIPS Agreement and Public Health.**

Related news: WHO executive board

- Indian Health Minister took charge as the **chairman of the WHO Executive Board.**
- Executive Board is **composed of 34 technically qualified members** in the field of health are elected for three-year terms. It meets at least twice a year.
- **Primary function of the board** is to implement the decisions of WHA, advise and facilitate its work.
- **Chairman post is held by rotation** for one year among 6 regional groups Africa, Americas, South East Asia, Europe, Eastern Mediterranean and Western Pacific.

Related Information**Doha declaration on the TRIPS agreement and public health**

- It was **adopted in 2001, by World Trade Organization (WTO) Members** to clarify ambiguities between the need for governments to apply the principles of public health and terms of TRIPS.
- This Declaration affirms that **TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent Members** from taking measures to protect public health.

7.11. OPEN SKIES TREATY

Why in news?

Recently, U.S. announced that it will exit the **Open Skies Treaty**, stating that Russia had “continuously and flagrantly” violated the treaty.

About Open Skies Treaty (OST)

- OST is an agreement that permits each state-party to **conduct short-notice, unarmed, reconnaissance flights over the others territories** to collect data on military forces and activities.
- It is aimed at **building confidence and familiarity** among states-parties through their participation in the overflights.
- OST was **signed in 1992** and came into **effect in 2002.**
- Currently **34 states are party to the treaty** while a 35th, Kyrgyzstan, has signed but not ratified it. Majority of members include **North American and European nations** like USA, UK, Russia, Turkey.
 - **India, China are not members** to the treaty.
- Though state-parties are allowed to **overfly all of a member’s territory**, the **treaty determines specific points of entry and exit** and refuelling airfields.
- **Open Skies Consultative Commission (OSCC)**, comprised of representatives of all states-parties, is responsible for implementation of OST.

7.12. GROUP OF SEVEN (G7)

Why in news?

The United Kingdom has invited Prime Minister of India to attend the G7 summit scheduled to be held in June 2021.

More about news

- Apart from **India, Australia and South Korea** are also invited to participate in the proceedings of the summit as guest countries.
- U.K. will use the G7 summit, as the opportunity to **build back better from coronavirus.**
- Previously, **in 2019 India participated in the G7 summit in Biarritz** on invitation by France.

About Group of Seven (G7)

- G7 is a bloc of industrialized democracies **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.**

- **Russia belonged to the forum from 1998 through 2014**, when the bloc was known as the Group of Eight (G8), but was **suspended following its annexation of Crimea**.
- There are **no formal criteria for membership**, but the participants are all developed democracies.
- The G-7 nations meet annually and presided over by leaders of member countries on a rotational basis to **discuss issues such as global economic governance, international security, and energy policy**.
- Currently, the aggregate gross domestic product (GDP) of G7 member states makes **more than 30% of the world**, down from nearly **70% three decades ago**.
- **India is not a member of the G7 group**.



7.13. G20

Why in News?

Prime Minister participated in the 15th G20 Summit convened by Saudi Arabia in virtual format.

About G20 (Group of Twenty)

- The G20 is the international forum that brings together the world’s major economies. Its members **account for more than 80% of world GDP, 75% of global trade and 60% of the population**.
- The forum has **met every year since 1999** and includes, since 2008, a yearly Summit, with the participation of the respective Heads of State and Government.
- In addition to the Summit, ministerial meetings, Sherpa meetings (in charge of carrying out negotiations and building consensus among Leaders), working groups and special events are organized throughout the year.
- **The objectives of the G20 are:**
 - **Policy coordination** between its members in order to achieve global economic stability, sustainable growth;
 - To **promote financial regulations** that reduce risks and prevent future financial crises;
 - To **create a new international financial architecture**.
- **G20 has two working tracks:**
 - **Finance Track:** The primary focus is on global economic and financial issues such as monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policies, infrastructure investment, financial regulation, financial inclusion and international taxation.

- **Sherpa Track:** The focus is on broader issues such as political engagement, anti-corruption, development, trade, gender equality, energy and climate change.
- The G20 **does not have a permanent secretariat:** its agenda and activities are established by the rotating Presidencies, in cooperation with the membership.
 - A "Troika", represented by the country that holds the Presidency, its predecessor and its successor, works to ensure continuity within the G20.
 - The Troika countries are currently Saudi Arabia, Italy and Indonesia.
- **G20 is supported by international organizations,** including the Financial Stability Board, International Labour Organisation, International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, United Nations, World Bank and World Trade Organization.
- **India has been a founding member of G20 process** and has played an active role in proposing new ideas and finding solutions.

7.14. SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (SCO)

Why in News?

Recently, Russian President chaired the 20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State.

More about news

- This was **the first SCO Summit held in Virtual Format.**
- India extended full support to observing the 20th anniversary of SCO in 2021 as **the "SCO Year of Culture."**
 - India announced that in 2021, the National Museum of India will hold an **exhibition on the Buddhist heritage of the SCO countries.**
- India **proposed to set up a Special Working Group on Innovation and Startups** and a Sub Group on Traditional Medicine within SCO.

About the SCO

- It is a **permanent intergovernmental political, economic and military organization** founded in Shanghai in 2001.
 - **Regional development and security issues** (terrorism, ethnic separatism and religious extremism) are its main focus.
- **Russian and Mandarin** are presently used as official and working languages in the SCO.
- Working of the SCO is underpinned by the "SHANGHAI SPIRIT" which is about mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity and pursuit of common development.
- **Working structure**
 - **The Heads of State Council (HSC):** It is the highest decision-making body in the SCO.
 - **The Heads of Government Council (HGC):** It is SCO's second-highest body that deals with the grouping's trade and economic agenda besides approving its annual budget.
 - **It has two permanent bodies**
 - **The Secretariat** coordinates the activity of the SCO and provides informational, analytical, legal, organisational and technical support.
 - **The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)** works for combating regional terrorism, separatism and extremism.
 - **The SCO Business Council and SCO Interbank Consortium** also work for increasing the cooperation among members for expanding economic cooperation and bank services respectively.



- **Global influence**
 - SCO represents around **42% of the world's population and 20% of the global GDP.**
 - 4 of its members (India, Russia, China and Pakistan) are **nuclear powers** and 2 (Russia and China) are **permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC).**
 - The SCO is considered a **counterweight to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).**
 - Both the organizations have geopolitical interests in Central Asia and the Gulf.
 - The SCO holds a degree of influence that is greater (in terms of land-mass) than NATO.

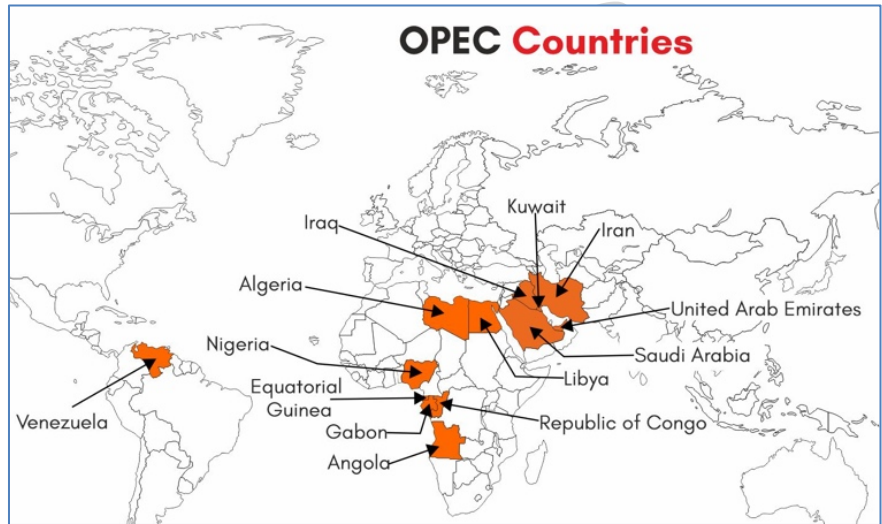
7.15. ORGANIZATION OF THE PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OPEC)

Why in news?

The OPEC Secretariat hosted the 4th High-Level Meeting of the OPEC - India Dialogue via videoconference.

About OPEC

- OPEC is a **permanent intergovernmental organization of 13 oil-exporting nations, originally found by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela** at the Baghdad Conference on September 1960.
- OPEC's **objective is to co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies** among member countries, in order to
 - secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers;
 - an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations;
- The **OPEC Secretariat is the executive organ of OPEC located in Vienna**; it also functions as the Headquarters of the Organization.
- It is **headquartered at Vienna, Austria.**
- While, **OPEC+ consists non-OPEC oil producing countries** Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan along with the 13 OPEC member countries.
- According to current estimates, **79.4% of the world's proven oil reserves are located in OPEC Member Countries**, with the bulk of OPEC oil reserves in the Middle East, amounting to 64.5% of the OPEC total.
- **India is not OPEC member.**
 - **India is world's third-largest oil importer** and 78% of crude oil, 59% of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and nearly 38% of its liquefied natural gas (LNG) demand is catered by OPEC.
 - **India's oil demand is forecast to rise** from 4.7 million barrels per day in 2019 to 10.7 million bpd by 2045.



7.16. UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS/PROGRAMMES IN NEWS

Organisations	Details
United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has given USD 2 million in aid to UNRWA working for the welfare of Palestinian refugees, amidst the coronavirus crisis. • UNRWA was created in December 1949 by the UN. • UNRWA provides shelter, basic food supplies, medical aid, education, and work opportunities for Palestine refugees in its five fields of operations: Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Gaza Strip and West Bank including East of Jerusalem.
United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNAIDS leads and inspires the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. • It unites the efforts of 11 UN organizations and works closely with global and national partners towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR works for rights and future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was created in 1950, during the aftermath of the Second World War, to help millions of Europeans who had fled or lost their homes.
UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, China announced to join UN arms trade treaty (ATT). ATT is legally binding international agreement to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> regulate global trade in conventional arms by establishing common international standards for member countries. Prevent and eradicate illicit trade and diversion of conventional arms. It covers all conventional weapons and does not place restrictions on the types or quantities of arms that may be bought, sold, or possessed by states. It is adopted by UN General Assembly and it entered into force in 2014. It is signed by 130 countries; India is not a signatory
United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945 as one of the six main organs of the United Nations. ECOSOC focuses on advancing the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. ECOSOC has 54 member Governments which are elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seats on the Council are allotted based on geographical representation with fourteen allocated to African States, eleven to Asian States, six to Eastern European States, ten to Latin American and Caribbean States, and thirteen to Western European and other States. India wins elections to key U.N.'s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) subsidiary bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission on Status of Women (CSW): CSW, established in 1946, is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Committee for Programme & Coordination (CPC): CPC is the main subsidiary organ of the ECOSOC and the UN's General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPC examines the totality of the Secretary-General's work programme giving particular attention to programme changes arising out of decisions adopted by intergovernmental organs and conferences or suggested by the Secretary-General. Commission on Population and Development (CPD): It assists ECOSOC in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. It also monitors, reviews and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels.
India-U.N. Development Partnership Fund (IUDPF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IUDPF was established in 2017. It is supported and led by India, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and implemented in collaboration with the United Nations system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNOSSC, hosted by UNDP since 1974, was established by UN General Assembly to promote, coordinate, and support South-South and triangular cooperation globally and within UN system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South-South cooperation is a broad framework of collaboration among developing countries in political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains. It aims to foster self-reliance of developing countries by enhancing their creative capacity to find solutions to their development problems. Under Triangular cooperation, traditional donor countries and multilateral organizations facilitate South-South initiatives through provisions of funding, training, management and technological systems etc. Recently, India contributes over \$15.46 mn to India-U.N. Development Partnership Fund (IUDPF)

7.17. MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS (OF WHICH INDIA IS A PART)

Organisations	Details
Organisation For The	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was established in the year 1997 with headquarter at The Hague, Netherlands. The OPCW Member States share the collective goal of preventing chemistry from ever again being used for warfare, thereby strengthening international security.

<p>Prohibition Of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the implementing body for the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons. It has membership of 193 countries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India is a member. Israel has signed but not ratified the Convention. Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan have neither signed nor acceded. The Conference of the States Parties is the plenary organ consisting of all members of the OPCW having equal voting rights. OPCW has reached a major milestone of destroying over 90% of the stockpile of the chemical weapons and was awarded 2013 Nobel Peace Prize for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons.
<p>International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IAEA is international organization, created in 1957, which works with its Member States to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies. IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. Being a designated Member, India has served on the Board of Governors of the IAEA since its inception. India and the IAEA signed an Agreement for Application of Safeguards to Civilian Nuclear facilities in India on 2 February 2009. The Agreement entered into force on 11 May 2009. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under safeguards agreements, IAEA has right and obligation to ensure that safeguards are applied on all nuclear material for exclusive purpose of verifying that nuclear material is not diverted to nuclear weapons
<p>Russia India China (RIC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, Special RIC meeting was held to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the conclusion of World War II, as well as foundation of UN. RIC was proposed by Russia in 1998, initially as counterbalance to the Western alliance. It emphasise on global issues like- reforms in UN, Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Prevention of arms race in outer space etc. It occupies over 19% of global landmass and contributes to over 33% of global GDP. It forms the core of both Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and BRICS. Significance for India: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflection of new found geostrategic importance for India, along with Japan-USA-India (JAI) and QUAD. Platform to discuss areas of cooperation and understand the differences on issues like Afghanistan, West Asia, Iran sanctions etc. Creating a new economic structure for world
<p>East Asia Summit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is leader-led forum at which all key partners meet to discuss the full range of political, security and economic challenges facing the Indo-Pacific, and has an important role to play in advancing closer regional cooperation. The EAS has 18 members - the ten ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) along with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the United States and Russia. This represents 54% of the world's population and accounts for around 58% of global GDP The inaugural EAS was held in Kuala Lumpur on 14 December 2005. India has been a part of this process since its inception in 2005.
<p>Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance Minister attended 5th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of AIIB. AIIB is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia. India is a founding member and second largest shareholder in AIIB with 7.5% voting shares while China holds 26.06% voting shares being the largest. It was established in December 2015 is headquartered in Beijing.
<p>Commonwealth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a unique political association of 53-member states (31 are island nations), nearly all of them former territories of the British Empire. The chief institutions of the organisation are the Commonwealth Secretariat, which focuses on intergovernmental aspects, and the Commonwealth Foundation, which focuses on non-governmental relations between member states. It was originally created as the British Commonwealth through the Balfour Declaration at the 1926 Imperial Conference, and formalised by the United Kingdom through the Statute of Westminster in 1931. The current Commonwealth of Nations was formally constituted by the London Declaration in 1949, which modernised the community, and established the member states as "free and equal".

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member states have no legal obligations to one another. Instead, they are united by English language, history, culture and their shared values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law
India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was formed in 2003 by the Brasilia declaration and is purely a South-South grouping of like-minded countries • Cooperation is on 3 fronts - reform of global institutions of political and economic governance; Collaboration on projects for the common benefit of countries; IBSA Fund. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ IBSA Fund provides financial support for South-owned, South-led, demand-driven and transformational projects across developing world, with a focus on Least Developed Countries
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADB was founded in 1966. • The ADB has 67-member countries, including —48 from the Asian region. • India was a founding member of ADB but operations in the country began only in 1986, when India opted to become a borrowing member. • ADB has been led conventionally by a Japanese governor. • Top 5 shareholders in ADB are: Japan (15.6%), United States (15.6%), People's Republic of China (6.4%), India (6.3%) and Australia (5.8%) • It provides direct assistance to private enterprises of developing member countries through equity investments and loans.
Mekong Ganga Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is an initiative by six countries – India and five ASEAN countries, namely, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam (Mekong passes through these five countries along with China). • It seeks for cooperation in tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communications. • It was launched in 2000 at Vientiane, Laos. • Both the Ganga and the Mekong are civilizational rivers, and the MGC initiative aims to facilitate closer contacts among the people inhabiting these two major river basins. • Recently, US also partners with Mekong nations to counter China's growing influence in SE Asia
Geneva Convention 1949	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols form the basis of modern international humanitarian law, setting out how soldiers and civilians should be treated during the war. • Although they were adopted in 1949, to take account of the experiences of the Second World War, the four Geneva Conventions continue to apply to armed conflicts today. • Three additional protocols were also adopted later on which expanded the rules. • The Conventions have been ratified by all States and are universally applicable. • Any nation that has ratified the Geneva Conventions but not the protocols is still bound by all provisions of the conventions.

7.18. MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS (OF WHICH INDIA IS NOT A PART)

Organisations	Details
African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Union has announced that the first commercial deal under AfCFTA will take place in January, 2021. • It aims to create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business, persons and investments. • AfCFTA would be the largest free trade area in the world measured by the number of countries participating. • 54 of the 55 nations recognized by African Union have signed to join the area – Eritrea is the exception -- while 35 states have ratified the agreement.
Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is an international cross-party group of legislators working towards reform on how democratic countries approach China. • Alliance seeks to help counter risks to global trade, security and human rights due to China's growing influence. • Participating nations include US, Germany, UK, Japan, Australia, Canada, Sweden, Norway, and members of European parliament.
United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2018, the United States, Mexico, and Canada renegotiated the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The new deal is now called the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NAFTA was created in 1994 to generate economic growth and helping to raise the standard of living for the people of all three member countries. ● USMCA enters into force on 1 July 2020.
Southern African Customs Union (SACU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India and SACU revived discussion for Preferential Trade Agreement between two. ○ In 2019-20, trade between India and Africa as a whole stood at \$ 66.7 billion, of which the India-SACU trade was \$ 10.9 billion. ● SACU is a customs union comprising Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa & Eswatini (Swaziland). ○ Customs union is an agreement between two or more neighboring countries to remove trade barriers, reduce or abolish customs duty. ● It is world's oldest custom union, whose formation dates back to 1910.
Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CARICOM is treaty among Caribbean countries to promote economic integration and cooperation among its members to ensure that the benefits of integration are equitably shared, and to coordinate foreign policy. ● Members of CARICOM: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. ● Recently, India offers USD 1 million to each Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is aimed at improving health infrastructure and capacities etc.
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is also called as the North Atlantic Alliance, an intergovernmental military alliance between 29 North American and European countries. ● The alliance was established by the North Atlantic Treaty 1949. ● It constitutes a system of collective defence. ● Its Headquarters are located in Haren, Brussels, Belgium.
Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is an inter-governmental organization founded in 1969 with a membership of 57 states spread over four continents. India is not a member. ● The organisation states that it is "the collective voice of the Muslim world" and works to "safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony. ● Official languages: Arabic, English, French ● Administrative centre: Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Eurasian Economic Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is an international organization for regional economic integration established by the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union. ● It came into force on 1 January 2015. ● It provides for free movement of goods, services, capital and labor, pursues coordinated, harmonized and single policy in the sectors determined by the Treaty and international agreements within the Union. ● Eurasian Economic Commission is the executive body of the Union. ● Members: Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. Former three are founding members.
European Bank For Reconstruction And Development (EBRD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a multilateral development bank set up in 1991 after the fall of the Berlin Wall to promote private and entrepreneurial initiative in emerging Europe. ● It is headquartered in London. ● It invests in 38 emerging economies across three continents, according to a set of criteria that aim to make its countries more competitive, better governed, greener, more inclusive, more resilient and more integrated. ● It has members from all over the world with the biggest shareholder being the United States, but only lends regionally in its countries of operations. ● The EBRD is different from the European Investment Bank (EIB), which is owned by EU member states and is used to support EU policy. ● The EBRD is unique among development banks in that it will not finance coal power plants due to their environmental impact. It has pledged to dedicate above 40 percent of its financing to green investment by 2020. ● India takes a shareholding in the EBRD, but it will not be a recipient of EBRD financing.
Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is an intergovernmental organization that aims to enhance cooperation between countries and territories of the Pacific Ocean. ● It was founded in 1971 as the South Pacific Forum. In 1999, the name was changed ● It comprises 18 members: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

<p>Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a regional intergovernmental political and economic union of six countries in the Arabian Peninsula: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Established in 1981, the GCC holds a summit every year to discuss cooperation and regional affairs. Due to their geographic proximity, similar political systems and common sociocultural stances, the immediate goal was for these countries to protect themselves from threats after the Iran-Iraq War. All current member states are monarchies, including three constitutional monarchies (Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain), two absolute monarchies (Saudi Arabia and Oman), and one federal monarchy (the United Arab Emirates, which is composed of seven member states, each of which is an absolute monarchy with its own emir).
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8. INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

8.1. PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS (PBD)

Why in News?

Recently, the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention was held virtually in New Delhi with the theme "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

About Indian Diaspora

- The term 'diaspora' is commonly understood to include Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI), of which PIO and OCI card holders were merged under one category — OCI — in 2015.
- Broadly speaking, for the Indian government, the diaspora encompasses a group of people who can either trace their origins to India or who are Indian citizens living abroad, either temporarily or permanently.
- **Status of Indian Diaspora:** As per the World Migration Report 2020, India was the leading country of origin of international migrants in 2019 with a 17.5 million strong diaspora.
 - USA holds the largest section of Indian diaspora followed by UAE, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and UK in decreasing order.
 - In 2018, **remittance inflows to India amounted to USD 79 billion, the largest in the world.**

About Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)

- PBD is celebrated **once in every two years** to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots.
 - PBD is held on January 9 as it was on this day in 1915, Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa and led the country's freedom struggle.
 - During the PBD convention, select eminent Indian diaspora members are awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards.
- **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards:** It is the highest honour conferred on a **Non-Resident Indian (NRI), Person of Indian Origin (POI)**; or an **organisation or institution** established and run by NRI or POI, who have made significant contribution in better understanding of India abroad, support India's causes and concerns in a tangible way, community work abroad, welfare of local Indian community, etc.

Government's efforts towards engaging Indian Diaspora

- **Global Pravasi Rishta portal:** It has been established for better communication with Pravasi Bhartiya.
- **Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit:** It aims to bring out comprehensive roadmap to leverage the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researcher for solving emerging challenges by bringing the Indian Overseas and Resident academicians/scientists together.
- **Know India Programme:** of the Ministry of External Affairs is a three-week orientation programme for diaspora youth conducted with a view to promote awareness on different facets of life in India and the progress made by the country in various fields.
- **Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY):** It is a skill development scheme of the **Ministry of External Affairs**, aimed at enhancing the skill set of potential emigrant workers in select sectors and job roles, in line with international standards, to facilitate overseas employment opportunities.
- **Community Welfare Funds:** At the national level, India has established such funds which levy small fees from consular services to support Indian nationals caught in crisis situations abroad. These funds allow consulates to have rapid access to resources in emergency cases, which in turn allows for the launch of rapid responses.

8.2. OTHER EVENT IN NEWS

Events	Details
Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deal is signed between Iran and the P5+1 (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States and Germany) and endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution in 2015.• It intended to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons while granting it an internationally monitored civilian nuclear power programme.• In 2018, US unilaterally withdrew from JCPOA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, United States initiated a controversial procedure called "snapback" at United Nations Security Council which was later withdrew in a bid to unilaterally reimpose sanctions on Iran. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) allows for any party to trigger a process that snaps U.N. sanctions on Iran back into place if Iran is not complying with the deal. Those sanctions include an embargo on Iran selling or buying specific weapons, a ban on Iran's activities tied to nuclear enrichment and reprocessing and any outside support for them, sanctions on certain Iranian officials and entities, and more
<p>Djibouti code of conduct/ Jeddah amendment (DCOC/JA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has joined Japan, Norway, UK and US as observer to DCOC. DCOC/JA is a grouping on maritime matters comprising 18 member states adjoining the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, the East Coast of Africa and Island countries in the Indian Ocean Region. It is aimed at repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western Indian Ocean Region, the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.
<p>Territorial Disputes in South China Sea (SCS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, ramping up support for Southeast Asian nations, US said that it would treat China's pursuit of resources in SCS as illegal. SCS has seen overlapping territorial claims by Philippines, Vietnam, China, Brunei, Taiwan and Malaysia. China claims more than 80% of SCS and uses "nine-dash line" a geographical marker used to assert its claim. (see map) China in response to US statement expressed firm opposition. <div data-bbox="405 790 1412 1688" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Overlapping Claims in the South China Sea</p> <p>Island occupied by: ● China ● Vietnam ● Taiwan</p> </div>
<p>Lebanon Reform, Recovery & Reconstruction Framework (3RF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is part of a comprehensive people-centered response to the massive explosion on the Port of Beirut in August 2020. It has been launched by the European Union, UN and the World Bank for a period of 18-month. The 3RF aims to help Lebanon achieve three central goals in response to the Beirut port explosion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A people-centered recovery Construction of critical assets, services, and infrastructure Restore people's trust in governmental institutions by improving governance
<p>Japan to join 'Five Eyes'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five Eyes is a network of five nations -- Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the US who collaborated to better respond to increasing threats by North Korea and China. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan is on its way to become the 'sixth eye'. Japan would provide key inputs on Chinese clampdown on Uyghurs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Uyghurs are Turkic-speaking Muslims who live in China's autonomous Xinjiang region, in the country's north-west. ○ Many Uyghur communities also live in countries neighbouring China, such as Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.
UNCTAD Investment Promotion Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has declared Invest India-National Investment Promotion Agency of India as a winner of the 2020 United Nations Investment Promotion Award. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Invest India is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. ● UNCTAD award recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of the world's best-practice investment promotion agencies. ● UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964. ● It provides a forum for intergovernmental consensus-building where all member States interact freely on policy issues concerning trade and development.
ASIA REASSURANCE INITIATIVE ACT (ARIA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● US President had signed ARIA act to counter the threat from China and to reinvigorate US leadership in the Indo-Pacific region. ● It aims to establish a multifaceted U.S. strategy to increase U.S. security, economic interests, and values in the Indo-Pacific region. ● The new law mandates actions countering China's illegal construction and militarization of artificial features in the South China Sea and coercive economic practices. ● ARIA recognizes the vital role of the strategic partnership between the U.S. and India in promoting peace and security in the IndoPacific region and it calls for strengthening diplomatic, economic, and security ties between both the countries. ● It allocates a budget of \$1.5 billion over a five-year period to enhance cooperation with America's strategic regional allies in the region.

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9. ISSUES RELATED TO SECURITY

9.1. INDIA AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Why in news?

UN General Assembly adopted two resolutions which were sponsored by India - 'Convention on the Prohibition of the use of Nuclear Weapons' and 'Reducing Nuclear Danger' under the 'Nuclear weapons' cluster. These resolutions manifest India's commitment towards the goal of nuclear disarmament.

More on the resolutions

- The **“Convention on the Prohibition of the use of Nuclear Weapons”**, tabled by India since 1982 in the General Assembly requests the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to commence negotiations on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances.
- The resolution on **“Reducing Nuclear Danger”**, tabled since 1998, draws global attention to the risks of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons and underscores the need for a review of nuclear doctrines. It calls for concrete steps to reduce such risks, including through de-alerting and de-targeting of nuclear weapons.

About Nuclear Disarmament

- Nuclear disarmament is the **act of reducing or eliminating nuclear weapons**. It can also be the end state of a nuclear-weapons-free world (NWFW), in which nuclear weapons are completely eliminated.
- The term **denuclearization** is also used to describe the process leading to complete nuclear disarmament.
- The United Nations sought to eliminate Nuclear weapons in the **first resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1946**.
 - The resolution established a Commission to deal with problems related to the discovery of atomic energy among others and also decided that the Commission should make proposals for **“the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction.”**

India's role in global nuclear disarmament

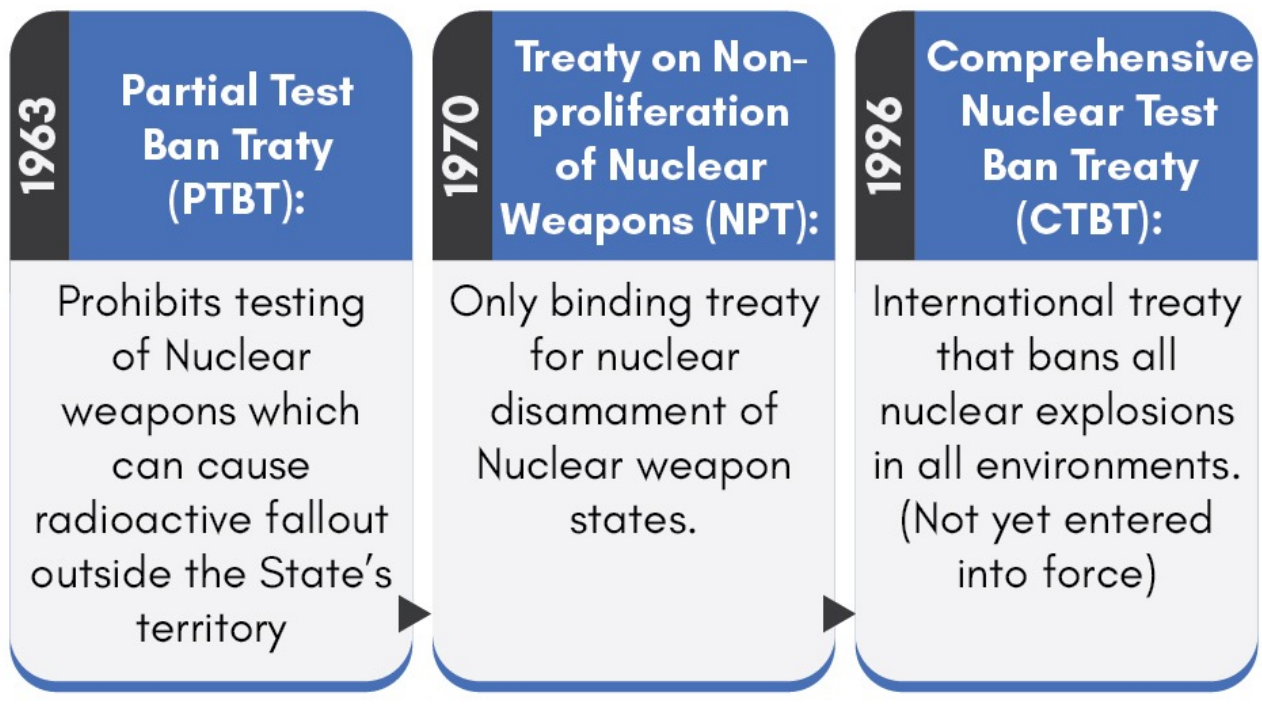
- India has **always been an ardent supporter of multilateral nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts**.
- On numerous occasions, India has taken the opportunity to be a driving force for attaining universal, complete and non-discriminatory disarmament:
 - In 1965, India was **amongst the Non-Aligned Eight in the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee (ENDC)** that advocated for de-linking disarmament and non-proliferation
 - India **opposed to signing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**, which it views as discriminatory because of its grouping of countries that divided the world into “nuclear haves” and “nuclear have-nots”.
 - India **proposed a comprehensive proposal for “complete and universal nuclear disarmament”** to the UN General Assembly Special Session on Disarmament in 1988, which came to be known as the **Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan**.
 - India **has not signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)** due to the failure of the treaty to include a commitment by the nuclear-weapon States to eliminate nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework.
 - Still it has observed a voluntary **nuclear testing moratorium since May 1998**.
 - Through its **Nuclear doctrine in 2003**, India has asserted its continued commitment to the goal of a nuclear weapon free world through global, verifiable, and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament.
 - **India has also opposed the recent enforcement of Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** which India believes is not a comprehensive instrument on disarmament as it excludes the verification of nuclear armaments.

Conference on Disarmament (CD)

- It was **formed in 1979** as the single multilateral disarmament negotiation forum of the international community, after agreement was reached among Member States during the first special session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) devoted to disarmament (1978).
- **Since the conclusion of the negotiation of the CTBT in 1996, the CD remains deadlocked** and has not been able to reach consensus on a programme of work and thus to commence substantive deliberations.

- India maintains that the Geneva-based **Conference on Disarmament (CD)** is the **single multilateral disarmament negotiation forum**.
- India is also in support of a non-discriminatory, universal, and verifiable **Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT)** that is being negotiated in CD.
 - ✓ **FMCT is a proposed international agreement** that would prohibit the production of the two main components of nuclear weapons: highly-enriched uranium (HEU) and plutonium.

KEY TREATIES FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, ARMS CONTROL AND NON-PROLIFERATION



9.2. TREATY ON PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (TPNW)

Why in news?

The UN Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force on 22 January 2021.

More about News

- This treaty was officially adopted in 2017 **due to efforts by International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)**.
 - ICAN is an international coalition of NGO's running the campaign to advocate United Nations Weapon Ban treaty in about 100 countries.
 - ICAN also received the 2017 Nobel peace prize due to its efforts.
- **TPNW** got its 50th ratification with Honduras signing it in October 2020, triggering a 90-day period before its entry into force on January 22, 2021.
 - At present, **86 member-states have signed the Treaty**, and 51 of them have ratified it.
- US, Russia, China, Britain, France, **India**, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel (countries possessing nuclear weapons) and NATO alliance **did not support it**.
 - India believes that the **treaty does not constitute or contribute to the development of customary international law**, nor does it set any new standards or norms.
 - India **supports the commencement of negotiations on a comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention in the Conference on Disarmament**, which is the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum working on the basis of consensus.

More about Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

- The entry into force of the TPNW means that the treaty's provisions will be **legally binding for the states that have ratified or acceded to it.**
- **TPNW prohibits States Parties to**
 - **Develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire,** possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;
 - **Transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons** or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly or indirectly;
 - **Receive the transfer of or control over nuclear weapons** or other nuclear explosive devices directly or indirectly;
 - **Use or threaten to use nuclear weapons** or other nuclear explosive devices;
 - **Assist, encourage or induce,** anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Treaty;
 - **Allow any stationing, installation or deployment of any nuclear weapons** or other nuclear explosive devices in its territory.
- It requires parties to **promote the treaty to other countries.**
- It also **obliges States parties to provide adequate assistance to individuals** affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons.

How the TPNW is different from NPT?

- **TPNW prohibits nuclear weapons outright,** comprehensively, for all States Parties, irrespective of whether they possess nuclear weapons, while in the **NPT the non-nuclear-weapon States forsake the option of developing nuclear weapons.**
- TPNW focused on prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, while the **NPT is focused on the transfer, manufacture and acquisition of these weapons.**
- **TPNW complements and supports the NPT's nuclear disarmament** and non-proliferation objectives to pursue negotiations on effective measures for nuclear disarmament.

Related information: India's civil nuclear cooperation

- There are **14 countries with which India has forged such agreements:** Argentina, Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Namibia, Russia, South Korea, United Kingdom, US and Vietnam.
- **India-US:** The U.S.–India Civil Nuclear Agreement or Indo-US nuclear deal or the **123 Agreement** was signed between US and India in 2008.
 - **Under the agreement,** India agreed to separate its civilian and military nuclear activities and to open up the civilian part to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- **India-France:** France was the first country to sign a civilian nuclear agreement with India in 2008 after the complete waiver provided by the NSG.
 - The deal **created the opportunity for India to be a part of the ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor** – an international nuclear fusion research and engineering megaproject), with the aid of both France and the US.
- **India-Russia:** Russia remained a key supplier of nuclear fuel to India, during a time of limited progress in India's engagement with the global nuclear architecture. In **2008, the two countries signed an agreement for the construction of four additional units at Kudankulam** and on developing new sites.
- **India-Japan:** The **India-Japan Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy** was signed in November 2016 and entered into force in July 2017.
 - Under '**Nullification clause**', Japan can suspend cooperation with India if India breaches its no-testing pledge to the NSG.
 - It was a **breakthrough for India as it became the first non-NPT signatory to enter into a civil nuclear cooperation pact with Japan** and thus in effect recognising the de facto status of India as a nuclear weapons power.
- India also has civil nuclear agreements for supply of Uranium with various countries like Australia (third largest producer of uranium), Canada, Mongolia etc.

Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP)

- It is **World's first nuclear energy partnership centre** at Kheri Jasaur village in Jhajjar district of Haryana.
- This center **facilitates deliberation and discussions of international experts on various issues** including innovation in nuclear reactors and the nuclear fuel cycle, development of proliferation-resistant reactors, security technologies and the effects of radiation exposure.
- **5 schools under it** are: (14)
 - School of Advanced Nuclear Energy System Studies (SANESS)

- School of Nuclear Security Studies (SNSS)
- School on Radiological Safety Studies (SRSS)
- School of Nuclear Material Characterization Studies (SNMCS)
- School for Studies on Applications of Radioisotopes and Radiation Technologies (SARRT)

9.3. BIO-TERRORISM

Why in news?

Parliamentary panel has **highlighted the need for the government to have laws to counter bio-terrorism** in its report 'The Outbreak of Pandemic COVID-19 and its Management'.

About bio-terrorism

- **Bioterrorism is a planned and deliberate use of pathogenic strains of microorganisms** such as bacteria, viruses, or their toxins to spread life-threatening diseases on a mass scale in order to devastate the population of an area.

Existing measures to counter bio-terrorism in India

- **Epidemic Diseases Act of 1897:** Act to provide for the better prevention of the spread of Dangerous Epidemic Diseases by providing special powers to authorities.
- **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):** NDMA has proposed a model instrument where participation of both government and private sectors is a pre-requisite to manage the menace of biological disaster. Half of the existing force is specifically trained to deal with chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats.
- **Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP):** It was initiated in assistance with World bank, to strengthen/maintain decentralized laboratory-based IT enabled disease surveillance system for epidemic-prone diseases to monitor disease trends and to detect and respond to outbreaks in early rising phase through trained Rapid Response Team.
- **International Health Regulations:** Revised International Health Regulations came into force in India in June 2007, that helps to ensure that outbreaks and other public health emergencies of international concern are detected and investigated more rapidly.

Initiatives at international level

- **Biological Weapons Convention:** It is first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the development, production and stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons.
- **INTERPOL Bioterrorism Prevention Unit:** It aims to enable law enforcement agencies to prevent, prepare and respond to the deliberate use of bacteria, viruses or biological toxins that threaten or cause harm to humans, animals or agriculture.
- **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety:** It is an international agreement which aims to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology.

9.4. SPACE WARFARE

Why in news?

The U.S. and the U.K. recently accused Russia of test-firing an anti-satellite weapon in space raising concerns of space warfare.

About space warfare

- Space warfare is combat that takes place in outer space. The scope of space warfare includes:
 - **ground-to-space warfare**, such as attacking satellites from the Earth;
 - **space-to-space warfare**, such as satellites attacking satellites; and
 - **space-to-ground warfare**, such as satellites attacking Earth-based targets.
- Advent of Space Warfare **began in 1962** when the US exploded a ground-based nuclear weapon in space, which eventually led to the **Outer Space Treaty of 1967**.
- **Existing and Future Space Weapons:**
 - **Kinetic physical weapons:** These weapons attempt to strike directly or detonate a warhead near a satellite or ground station, such as **Anti-satellite weapons (ASAT)**. ASATs are mainly of two types:

SPACE TREATIES

1967 Outer Space Treaty (OST)

- Provides Basic Frame work on international space law.
- It is administered by the UN Committee on peaceful uses of outer space.
- India ratified the treaty in 1982.
- Key principle for the treaty :-
- Freedom of expression and use of space.
- Non-appropriation of outer space.
- Prohibition of the deployment of Nuclear weapon.

1972 Liability Convention

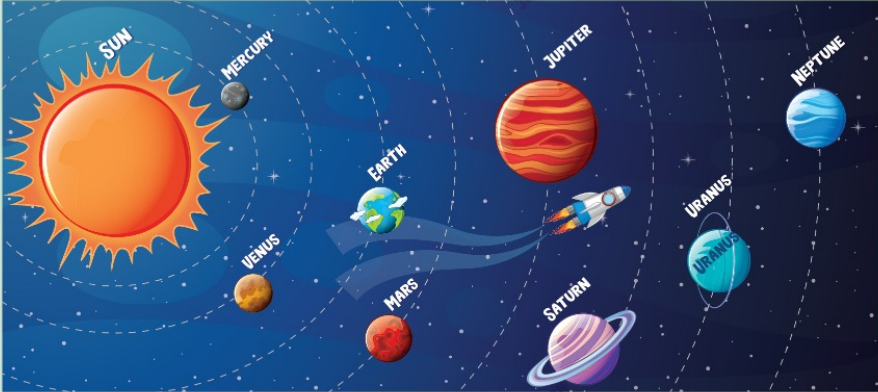
- Standards of liability for damage caused by space objects.

1975 Registration Convention

- Requires states to register all space objects with UN.

1979 Moon Agreement

- Ensures that Moon and other Celestial bodies are used for peaceful purposes.



- **Direct-ascent ASAT weapon** are launched from the ground to strike a satellite.
- **Co-orbital ASAT weapon** are placed into orbit and have maneuvering abilities.
- **Non-kinetic physical weapons:** These are weapons that can have physical effects on satellites and ground stations without making physical contact, e.g. lasers, **high-powered microwave (HPM)** weapons, and **electromagnetic pulse (EMP)** weapons.
- **Electronic attack:** They target the means through which space systems transmit and receive data by jamming or spoofing radio frequency (RF) signals.
 - Spoofing is a form of electronic attack where the attacker tricks a receiver into believing a fake signal, produced by the attacker, is the real signal it is trying to receive.
- **Cyber-attacks:** They can target satellites by monitoring data and traffic patterns, or by inserting false or corrupted data in the system.

India's Counter space capabilities

- **Mission Shakti:** In 2019, India became the fourth country, after **United States, Russia and China**, to successfully test a direct-ascent anti-satellite (ASAT) missile that targeted a satellite in Low Earth Orbit.
 - It demonstrated its **capability to interdict and intercept a satellite in outer space** based on complete indigenous technology.
- **Defence Space Agency (DSA)** was established to command the space assets of the Army, Navy and Air Force, including the military's anti-satellite capability.
 - It is also to formulate a strategy to protect India's interests in space, including addressing space-based threats.
- **Defence Space Research Organisation (DSRO)** was also created to provide technical and research support to DSA.
- **IndSpaceEx** (simulated space warfare exercise) was conducted in 2019 to identify key challenges and shortfalls if a conflict escalates in space dimension.

9.5. FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE

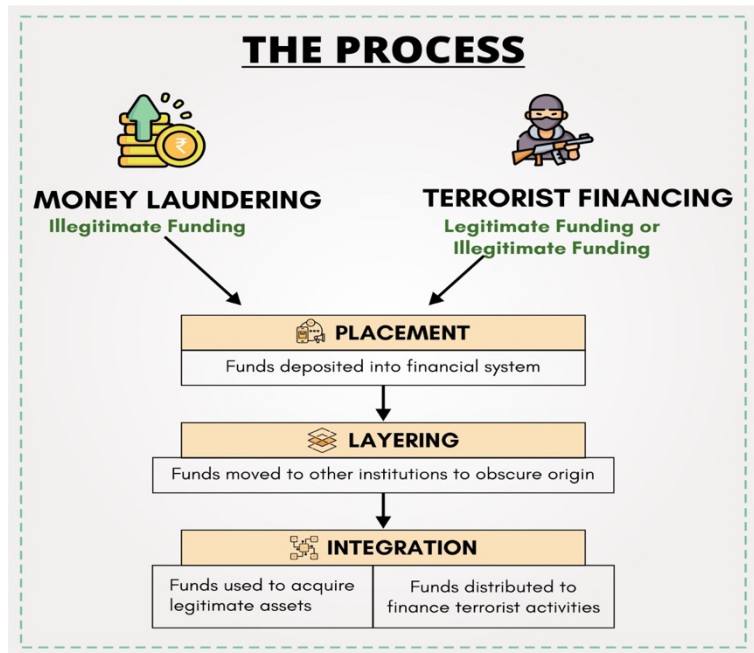
Why in news?

Pakistan is likely to remain on the grey list of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** for failing to comply with its deadline to prosecute and penalise terrorist financing in the country.

About Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- The FATF is the **global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog**. The inter-governmental body sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities and the harm they cause to society.

- It currently comprises **37 member countries (including India)** and 2 regional organizations-European Commission and Gulf Co-operation Council.
- It was established in July 1989 by a **Group of Seven (G-7) Summit** in Paris, initially to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering.
 - It later expanded its mandate to incorporate efforts to combat terrorist financing and to counter the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in addition to money laundering.
- FATF established a series of **Special Recommendations to combat terrorism** which outlined measures to deprive terrorists and terrorist organisations of access to funding and the financial system.



9.6. BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE AND SHEKATKAR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Why in news?

Recently, Government accepted and implemented three important recommendations of Shekatkar Committee relating to border Infrastructure.

About recommendations

Three recommendations were related to **speeding up road construction**, leading to **socio economic development in border areas**. They were:

- **Outsourcing road construction work** beyond optimal capacity of Border Roads Organisation (BRO). **Engineering Procurement Contract (EPC) mode is made mandatory** for execution of all works **costing more than Rs 100 crore**.
 - In EPC mode, private player is paid to lay roads and it has no role in road’s ownership, toll collection or maintenance (it is taken care of by government).
- Introduction of **modern construction plants, equipment and machinery** by delegating **enhanced procurement powers** from Rs 7.5 crore to Rs 100 crore **to BRO, for domestic and foreign procurements**.
 - BRO has recently inducted **advanced equipment** (E.g. Hot-Mix Plant, remote operated hydraulic Rock Drills etc.) and **new technology** like Geo-Textiles etc.
 - Field officers were given **enhanced financial and administrative powers**, for faster financial closure of works.
- **Land acquisition and all statutory clearances** like forest and environmental clearance are made **part of approval of Detailed Project Report**. Work can be awarded only after at least 90% of statutory clearances have been obtained.

About Border Road Organisation (BRO)

- BRO started operations in **1960** as a leading road construction agency **under the Ministry of Defence** with primary role of **providing road connectivity in border areas**.
- It executes road construction and maintenance works **along the Northern and Western frontiers**.
- BRO has also **constructed roads in friendly foreign countries** like Bhutan, Myanmar, Afghanistan etc.

About Shekatkar Committee

- It was **constituted to recommend measures to enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure** of armed forces. It submitted its report in 2016.
- **Key recommendations:**

- **Defence budget** should be in range of 2.5 to 3% of the GDP, keeping in mind possible future threats. (Less than 2% in 2019)
- **Restructuring of repair echelons** in Army to include base workshops, advance base workshops and static/station workshops in field Army
- **Closure of military farms and army postal establishments** in peace locations
- **Restructure civilian workforce** in a manner that the work of **Military Engineering Services (MES)** could be partly done by departmentally employed staff and other works could be outsourced.
 - Recently, Defence Minister approved a proposal for the abolition of 9,304 posts in MES.

Additional information

Smart Fence

- The smart border fencing projects have been built under the **Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS)** programme along **Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh** international borders.
- Smart fencing at the borders is a **technological solution devised to address the security issues** in the border-states.
- It has hi-tech surveillance system that would **create an invisible electronic barrier on land, water, air and underground** and would help security forces to **detect and foil infiltration bids in most difficult terrains**.

Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS)

- It is a **robust and integrated system that is capable of addressing the gaps in the present system of border security** by seamlessly integrating human resources, weapons, and high-tech surveillance equipment.
- It improves the **capability of Border Security Force (BSF) in detecting and controlling the cross border crimes** like illegal infiltration, smuggling of contraband goods, human trafficking and cross border terrorism etc.
- It also **improves situational awareness** to facilitate prompt decision making and quick reaction to emerging situations.
- It involves deployment of **a range of state-of-the-art surveillance technologies** —
 - Thermal imagers, infra-red and laser-based intruder alarms.
 - Aerostats for aerial surveillance.
 - Unattended ground sensors that can help detect intrusion bids.
 - Radars, sonar systems to secure riverine borders.
 - Fibre-optic sensors.
 - A command-and-control system that shall receive data from all surveillance devices in real time.
- 2 pilot projects covering about 71 Kms on Indo-Pakistan Border (10 Kms) and Indo-Bangladesh Border (61 Kms) of CIBMS have been completed.
- In 2018, BSF undertook the project **BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique)** to equip Indo-Bangladesh borders with different kind of sensors in unfenced riverine area of Brahmaputra and its tributaries.

9.7. INTEGRATED BATTLE GROUPS

Why in news?

Recently, Indian Army has postponed the official launch of its new integrated battle groups (IBGs) because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

About Integrated Battle Group

- IBGs are brigade-sized, agile, self-sufficient combat formations, which can swiftly launch strikes against adversary in case of hostilities.
 - They will be able to mobilize within **12-48 hours based on the location**.
 - The integrated units for the border will be **all-encompassing, with artillery, armoured, combat engineers and signal units**.
 - Currently, during hostilities a brigade has to wait to be augmented by different types of units which increase the time to mobilize.
- The IBGs are to perform both **offensive roles**, involving cross-border operations, and **defensive roles** to withstand an enemy attack.
- Each IBG would be **tailor-made** based on **Threat, Terrain and Task** and resources will be allotted based on the three Ts. They need to be **light so they will be low on logistics**.
 - The composition of every IBG would differ on the basis of the terrain where it is located — an IBG operating in a desert needs to be constituted differently from one operating in the mountains.
- Each IBG will be **headed by a Major General** and comprise around 5,000 troops.
- IBG will help in effectively implementing the **Cold Start doctrine**.

- Cold Start' doctrine of the Indian Armed Forces envisages swift deployment of troops on the western border within days if a situation of a full-blown war arises.
- This doctrine aims to allow Indian forces to conduct sustained attacks while preventing a nuclear retaliation from Pakistan.

9.8. MILITARIZATION OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Why in news?

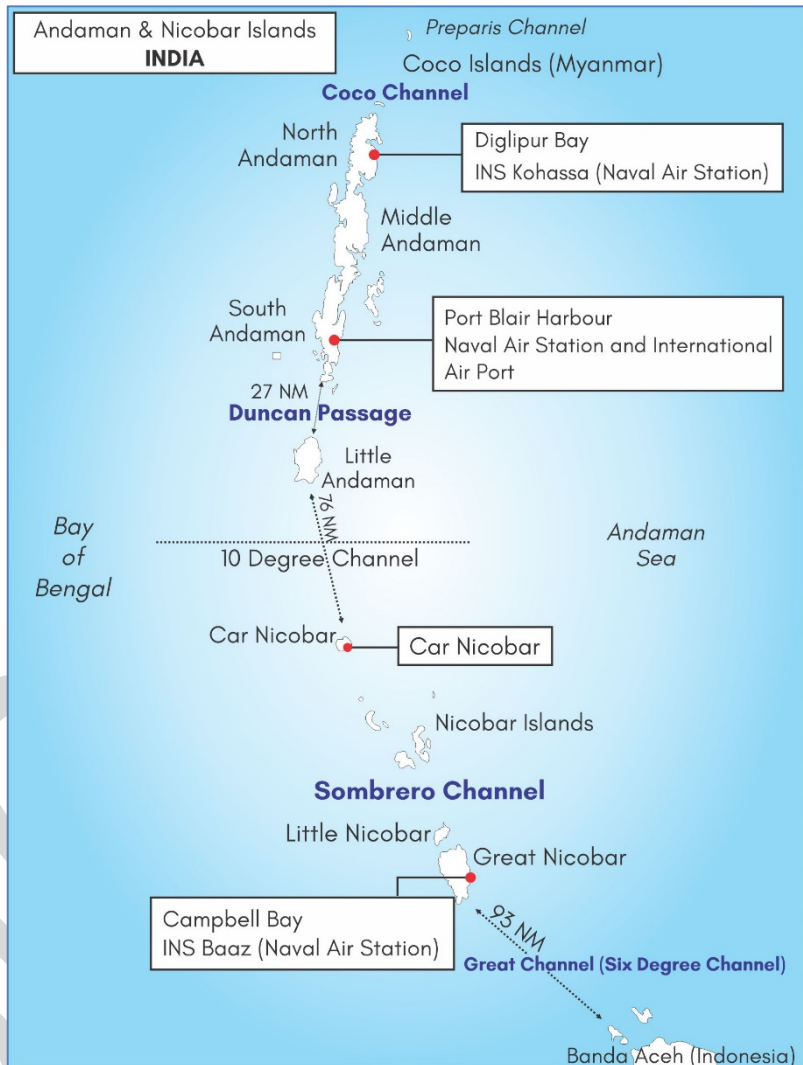
The Ladakh stand-off with China has catalysed India's efforts to strengthen its military presence at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (ANI).

More on news

- Government plans for basing additional military forces, including facilities for additional warships, aircraft, missile batteries and infantry soldiers at the strategically located Andaman Islands.
- Runways at Naval air stations INS Kohassa in Shibpur and INS Baaz in Campbell Bay are being extended to support operations by large aircraft.
- Indian strategic commentators are even recommending to permit friendly foreign navies access to the ANI's military bases.

Need to militarize ANI

- **Growing Chinese presence:** In recent years, China strengthened its overall presence in Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
 - Examples include deployment of a submarine at Colombo harbour, developing naval bases at Gwadar and Djibouti etc.
- **Strategic location:** These islands help India to defend its vital stakes in IOR. To achieve the purpose, India has set up Andaman and Nicobar Tri service Command.
- **Economically important:** These islands dominate the Bay of Bengal which contains important sea lines of communication. More than 30 percent of the world's seaborne trade passes through this narrow region.
 - They comprise 30 per cent of India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- **Buffer Zone:** These Islands act as a buffer zone between India and rest of the nations present in IOR.



About Andaman & Nicobar Islands group

- It is a group of 572 islands, out of which only 38 are inhabited.
- The islands extend from 6° to 14° North latitudes and from 92° to 94° East longitudes.
- The highest point is Saddle Peak (732 m) located in North Andaman Island.
- The only active volcano in India, Barren Island, is located in A&N and had last erupted in 2017.
- It also has mud volcanoes have erupted mud volcano situated in Baratang island sporadically
- It has often been referred to as India's 'unsinkable aircraft carrier' to the East.
- **A&N Command:** It is the first and only Tri-Service theatre command of the Indian Armed Forces. It patrols India's EEZ to suppress gun running, narcotics smuggling, piracy, and poaching, and conducts maritime surveillance and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.

9.9. DEFENCE ACQUISITION PROCEDURE, 2020

Why in News?

Recently Defence Ministry unveiled Defence Acquisition Procedure, 2020 (erstwhile Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)).

Salient features of Policy

- DAP has been aligned with the **vision of the government's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) initiative and to empower Indian domestic industry** through 'Make in India' projects with the ultimate aim of turning India into a global manufacturing hub.
 - It **aims to implement 'Ease of Doing Business'** with emphasis on Simplification, Delegation, Reduced Timelines and making the process as Industry friendly as possible.
- It has come into effect from October 1, 2020 and will **supersede the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) of 2016**.
 - The first DPP was promulgated in the year 2002 and has since been revised periodically to provide impetus to the growing domestic industry.
- Earlier in Aug 2019, Defence Ministry had constituted **Committee under Apurva Chandra** for preparation of DAP-2020.
- DAP will **ensure timely acquisition of military equipment, systems and platforms as required by the Armed Forces** in terms of performance, capabilities and quality standards, through optimum utilisation of allocated budgetary resources.
- DAP will **cover all Capital Acquisitions** other than Works and Land undertaken by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Service Headquarters (SHQ) both from indigenous sources and ex-import, **except for medical equipment**.

What is offset?

- Under the offset policy, the foreign defence entities were mandated to **spend at least 30% of the total contract value in India** through procurement of components, transfer of technologies or setting up of research and development facilities.
- This condition was for all contracts worth **more than Rs 2,000 crore**.
- It was meant to **improve the domestic defence manufacturing**.

Key points in policy

- Offset policy revised**
- Notify a List of Weapons/Platforms for Ban on Import**
- For Indigenisation of Imported Spares:**
 - New Category of Buy (Global – Manufacture in India)**
 - Request For Information (RFI)**
 - Reservation in Categories for Indian Vendors**
 - Other proposed measures:** These includes making after sales support part of capital acquisition contract, higher indigenous content in acquisitions and incentives for local material and software and emphasis on product export under offsets.
- For Time Bound Defence Procurement Process, Faster Decision Making and Ease of Doing Business:**
 - Setting up of project management unit (PMU)**
 - Simplification of Trial Procedures**
- Leasing:** It has been introduced as a new category for acquisition in addition to the existing 'Buy' and 'Make' categories to substitute huge initial capital outlays with periodical rental payments.
 - This will be useful for military equipment not used in actual warfare like transport fleets, trainers, simulators, among others.
- Strategic Partnership Model (SPM):** Strategic Partnerships will seek to enhance indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities through the private sector over and above the existing production base.

Overall Enhancement in Indigenous Content (IC)

Ser No	Category	DPP 2016	DAP 2020
1	Buy (Indian-IDDMM)	Min 40%	Min 50%
2	Buy (Indian)	Min 40%	Indigenous design - Min 50% Otherwise - Min 60%
3	Buy & Make (Indian)	Min 50% of Make	Min 50% of Make
4	Buy (Global – Manufacture in India)	—	Min 50% of Buy plus Make
5	Buy (Global)	—	Min 30% for Indian vendors

9.10. DRAFT DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND EXPORT PROMOTION POLICY (DPEPP) 2020

Why in News?

Recently, Ministry of Defence proposed Draft Defence Production and Export Policy 2020 with an aim to double India's defence production in five years.

About the Draft Policy

The policy is envisaged as a guiding document to overcome aforesaid challenges by providing a focused, structured and significant thrust to defence production capabilities of the country for self-reliance and exports.

Current Status of Defence Production in India

- India remained the world's **second-largest arms importer** during 2015-19, with Russia as its largest supplier.
 - Although **Russia's share** of the Indian weapons market **has declined from 72% to 56%**.
- Estimates suggest the Indian armed forces **could spend about \$130 billion** to procure defence equipment in the next five years. The share of domestic procurement in overall Defence procurement is about **60 percent**.
- The size of India's defence industry is **estimated to be Rs 80,000 crore**. "While the contribution of the **public sector** is estimated to be **Rs 63,000 crore**, the share of **private sector** has steadily grown to **Rs 17,000 crore** over the years.
- Defence exports:** In 2018-19, they were worth Rs 10,745 crore, a growth of over 700 per cent since 2016-17. India exports to more than 40 countries.
- The defence industry is ably **supported by a strong base of over 8,000 MSMEs** that provide strength and vibrancy to the defence supply chain.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICY

To achieve a **turnover of Rs 1,75,000 Crores** including export of Rs 35,000 Crore in Aerospace and Defence goods and services by 2025

To develop a **dynamic, robust and competitive Defence industry**, including Aerospace and Naval Shipbuilding industry to cater to the needs of Armed forces with quality products.

To **reduce dependence on imports** and take forward "Make in India" initiatives through domestic design and development.

To **promote export of defence products** and become part of the global defence value chains.

To **create an environment that encourages R&D**, rewards innovation, creates Indian IP ownership and promotes a robust and self-reliant defence industry.

9.11. INTELLIGENCE REFORMS

Why in News?

In the backdrop of repeated China's incursions, experts have called for intelligence reforms.

Intelligence Framework in India

- India's existing intelligence apparatus comprises an assortment of agencies that have specific mandates.
- At the apex level, the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)**, headed by the National Security Advisor (NSA), was set up by the government following the 1998 Pokhran-II nuclear tests.
 - It operates within the executive office of the Prime Minister of India, liaising between the government's executive branch and the intelligence services, advising leadership on intelligence and security issues.
- In 2018, the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC)**, a body created to aggregate and analyse all intelligence from the various agencies, was subsumed into the NSCS.

Various Intelligence agencies

- IB, created in 1887**, reports to the Ministry of Home Affairs and is responsible for India's domestic intelligence, internal security, and counter-intelligence.

- It was first named Indian Political Intelligence Office and it was given its current name after Independence.
- **Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW)**, meanwhile, is the country's foreign intelligence agency formed in 1968.
 - It comes under the direct command of the prime minister. R&AW is a wing of the Cabinet Secretariat.
- **National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO; erstwhile National Technical Facilities Organisation)**: It was established in 2004 and is the technical intelligence agency of the Government of India.
 - NTRO comes under the National Security Advisor and is part of the Prime Minister's Office.
- **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)**: It is tasked with anti-smuggling intelligence; it was set up in 1957, and falls under the Ministry of Finance.
- The "norms of conduct" of the IB, R&AW and NTRO are governed by the Intelligence Organisations (Restrictions of Rights) Act, 1985.
 - Additionally, employees of Indian intelligence agencies are subject to the Official Secrets Act (first enacted in 1923) that governs, among others, the sharing of classified information.
- However, these various intelligence agencies tend to overlap in their functions, either by design or as a natural consequence of their activities.

9.12. NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE GRID (NATGRID)

Why in news?

NATGRID has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) to access the centralised online database on FIRs and stolen vehicles.

More about News

- MoU will give **NATGRID access to Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) database.**
- All State police are mandated to file First Information Reports (FIR) in the CCTNS.
- MoU enables the NATGRID to get information about details of a suspect as mentioned in the FIR such as his/her father's name, telephone number and other details.

About NCRB

- NCRB, under MHA, was set-up in 1986 to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- It was set up based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA Task force (1985).
- In 2009, NCRB was entrusted with the responsibility for monitoring, coordinating and implementing the CCTNS project.
 - CCTNS is a **Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan.**
 - It connects 15000+ police stations and 6000 higher offices of police in the country.
 - CCTNS aims at **creating a comprehensive and integrated system** for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policing **through adopting of principle of e-Governance** and creation of a nationwide networking infrastructure.

About NATGRID

- NATGRID, an attached office of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), is the integrated intelligence grid which connects databases of core security agencies. It was **proposed after the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.**
- It will **assist intelligence and law enforcement agencies** in ensuring national and internal security, **with the ultimate aim to counter terror.**
- NATGRID will link **10 user agencies with certain databases** that would be procured from 21 organisations.
 - **Database involves data related to** credit and debit cards, tax, telecom, immigration, airlines and railway tickets, passports, driving licenses.
 - **It will be available for various central agencies**, on a case-to-case-basis, including Intelligence Bureau, Research and Analysis Wing, Department of Revenue Intelligence etc.

9.13. "LONE WOLF" ATTACKS

Why in News?

Recently, a lone wolf attack was carried out by an individual in London.

About Lone wolf Attacks

- These attacks involve threat or use of violence by a **single perpetrator** (or a small cell).

- A lone wolf acts **without any direct support** of any other group or other individual in the **planning, preparation and execution** of the attack.
- Though lone wolf prefers to act totally alone, his or her radicalization to action maybe spurred by violent media images, incendiary books, manifestos, and fatwas.
- Ranging from threatening and intimidating people to **indiscriminate shootings, vehicle ramming, stabbing and suicide bombings**, lone wolf terror attacks have become a grave threat.
- Long-term data reveals the proportion of lone wolf attacks, has risen from under five per cent in the mid-1970s to above 70 per cent for the period between 2014 and 2018.

9.14. INDIAN ARMY PROPOSES TOUR OF DUTY

Why in news?

Indian Army has proposed to allow common citizens to join its ranks as officers and soldiers for a three-year short service billed as 'Tour of Duty'.

About the proposal

- 'Tour of Duty' (ToD) is short, **voluntary internship programme of three-year** for youths.
- It is for youths who “**do not want to make defence services their permanent vocation**, but still want to experience the thrill and adventure of military professionalism”.
- Proposal suggests several measures to incentivise this scheme like a **tax-free income for three years** and a **token lumpsum at the end of three years**, preference in public sector jobs and post-graduate courses etc.
- However, there will be **no severance packages** (retirement benefits) e.g. Pension, Gratuity, Leave encashment etc. for ToD officers.

Similar schemes

- After the World War II, there was colour service (7-10 years) and reserve service (8-15 years) scheme, introduced by **British Indian army**.
- There is **precedence of this model in Israel** due to less availability of youths for military service.
- Singapore has a **mandatory National Service (NS)** of 2 years for every male Singaporean.

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10. MISCELLANEOUS

10.1. INDIA'S DRAFT ARCTIC POLICY

Why in News?

Government has recently released a draft Arctic Policy document in order to solicit public comments.

About Arctic region

- It refers to the region above the Arctic Circle, north of latitude 66° 34' N, which **includes Arctic Ocean with North Pole at its centre.**
- Much of this Ocean falls within the jurisdiction of five Arctic littoral states—**Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Norway, Russia and USA (Alaska).**



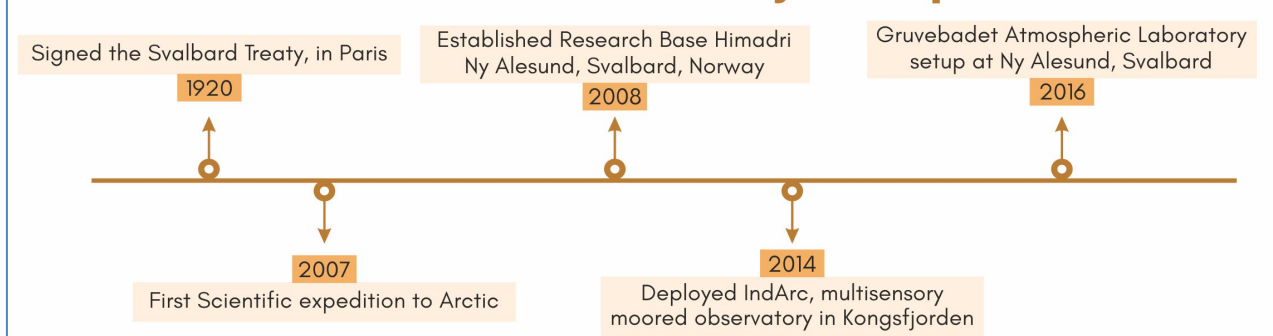
Draft policy seeks to achieve India's Arctic mission that aims to:

- Contribute to international efforts to **enhance humankind's understanding of the Arctic region** in India's capacity as an Observer State to the **Arctic Council.**
- **Enhance sustainable and mutually beneficial cooperation** between India and the Arctic.
- Strengthen **efforts against global warming.**
- Better **understand the scientific and climate related linkages** between the Arctic and the Indian monsoons.
- **Harmonise polar research with the third pole—the Himalayas.**
- Advance the study and understanding of the Arctic within India.

About Arctic Council

- It is a high-level **intergovernmental forum for Arctic cooperation** that was set up with the twin-mandate of **environmental protection and sustainable development.**
- It comprises 8 member states, permanent participants and observers.
 - Canada, Denmark, Finland, Russia, US, Iceland, Norway, Sweden are member states
 - **India became an Observer nation in 2013.**

India And The Arctic - A History of Cooperation



10.2. DATA FREE FLOW WITH TRUST (DFFT)

Why in news?

India recently refused to become a signatory to the **Osaka declaration on digital economy** which proposes the concept of **Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT).**

About DFFT

- It aims to **eliminate restrictions on cross-border transfer of information by electronic means**, including personal information, and storing data in foreign servers, for productivity, innovation and sustainable development.

- It also stresses on the importance of addressing challenges such as security, data protection and intellectual property that otherwise mar public trust in digital technologies.

About Osaka Declaration on Digital Economy

- The declaration was signed at the sidelines of the **G20 summit in 2019**, by some G20 leaders and other countries who are currently participating in the informal plurilateral negotiations on e-commerce at the World Trade Organization.
- It announced the launch of the '**Osaka Track**', a process that aims to intensify efforts on international rule-making on digital economy, especially on data flows and e-commerce, while promoting enhanced protections for intellectual property, personal information, and cybersecurity.
- The Osaka Track is inspired on the idea of '**Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT)**' proposed by former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the World Economic Forum 2019, aiming to eliminate restrictions on cross-border data flows.

10.3. WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Why in News?

The **Nobel Peace Prize 2020** was awarded to **World Food Programme (WFP)** for "its efforts to combat hunger, bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and preventing the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict".

WFP and its achievements

- WFP, established in 1961, is an **intergovernmental organisation and UN's primary agency** that works towards achieving the SDG Goal of eradicating hunger (Goal 2) by 2030.
- Currently, it is the **world's largest humanitarian agency combating hunger. It delivers food assistance in emergencies and works with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience.**
- Its **headquartered in Rome, Italy.**
- **Every year, WFP distributes more than 15 billion rations** at an estimated average cost per ration of \$0.61 and **two-thirds** of its work is in **conflict-affected countries** where people are three times more likely to be undernourished than other countries.
- **In 2019, it assisted close to 100 million people in 88 countries** who are victims of acute food insecurity and hunger.
- It **plays a key role in multilateral cooperation** to combat the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict and on making **food security an instrument of peace.**
- WFP publishes **Hunger Map** that depicts the prevalence of undernourishment in the population of each country **to monitor the status of global hunger** and help enhance the efficiency of operations.

About Nobel Peace Prize

- Since March 1901, it has been **awarded annually** (with some exceptions) to those who have "done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses".
- The **recipient is selected by the Norwegian Nobel Committee**, a five-member committee appointed by the Parliament of Norway.

WFP and India

- The WFP has been **working in India since 1963.**
- Apart from **focusing on reforms in the Targeted Public Distribution System**, it provides policy inputs, advocacy and technical assistance for improving access to food.
- The WFP has **proposed some unique initiatives** like Automatic Grain Dispensing Machine (Annapurta) and Mobile Storage Units for the effective implementation of TPDS and has completed a **pilot on rice fortification** used in the government's Mid-day Meals scheme in Varanasi.
- During the current COVID pandemic, it has signed an **MoU with the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission** to provide technical assistance for setting up supplementary nutrition production units.

10.4. SOME KEY TERMS IN NEWS

Vaccine Diplomacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccine diplomacy can be seen as a branch of global health diplomacy that relies on the use or delivery of vaccines and alongside providing ancillary services like distribution assistance and related research. For instance, India has been a major supplier of RT-PCR vaccines in the African region since the AIDS outbreak. This can be seen as an example of India's vaccine diplomacy.
E-Diplomacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E diplomacy is the use of internet and communication technologies by nations to define and establish diplomatic goals and objectives and to efficiently carry out the functions of diplomats. These functions include representation and promotion of the home nation, establishing both bilateral and multilateral relations, consular services and social engagement.
Track-II Diplomacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track II Diplomacy is also known as Backchannel Diplomacy, in which private individuals (such as former diplomats, military veterans, academicians etc.), meeting unofficially, can find their way to common ground that official negotiators can't and the talks under it are not codified as official statements. Track I Diplomacy is official government diplomacy whereby communication and interaction is between governments. Track 1.5 diplomacy involves both officials and non-officials (business leaders, business organizations and all possible non diplomats).
Official Development Assistance (ODA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ODA is defined as government aid designed to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Japan has committed ODA loan of an amount of approx. Rs. 3,500 crore for the COVID-19 Crisis Emergency Response Support for India. Japan initiated its economic cooperation with India in 1958. The cooperation began by ODA Loan, which was the first ODA Japan had ever provided for any country.
Minilateralism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minilateralism is defined as diplomatic efforts by more than three countries outside of traditional multilateral forums to deal with specific topics that individual states alone cannot manage but that all the states together likewise cannot agree.

PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION 2020

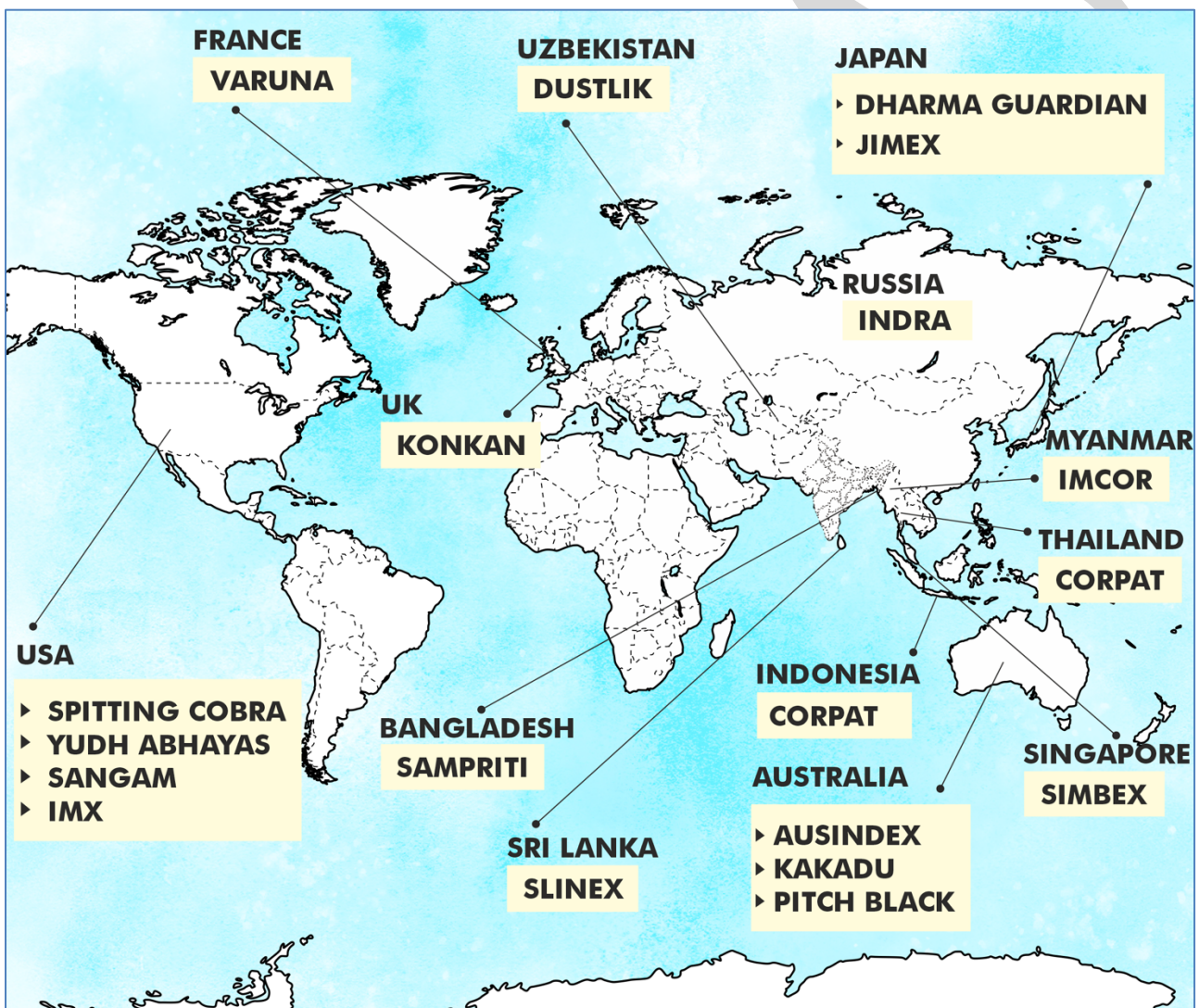
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Programme Features

- ★ DAF Analysis Session with senior faculty members of Vision IAS
- ★ Mock Interview Session with Ex-Bureaucrats/ Educationists
- ★ Interaction with Previous toppers and Serving bureaucrats
- ★ Performance Evaluation and Feedback

11. MILITARY EXERCISES OF INDIA IN NEWS

S.N.	With	Exercises
1	Australia	AUSINDEX, KAKADU, PITCH BLACK
2	Bangladesh	SAMPRIITI
3	France	VARUNA
4	Indonesia	CORPAT
5	Japan	DHARMA GUARDIAN, JIMEX
6	Myanmar	IMCOR
7	Russia	INDRA
8	Singapore	SIMBEX
9	Sri Lanka	SLINEX
10	Thailand	CORPAT
11	UK	KONKAN
12	USA	YUDHABHAYAS, SPITTING COBRA, SANGAM, IMX
13	Uzbekistan	DUSTLIK

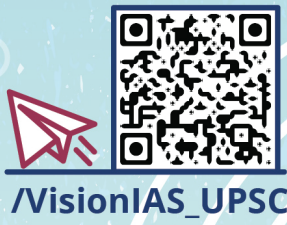
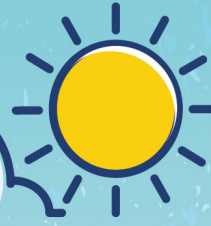


PT 365 - International Relations

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