



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Classroom Study Material

(May 2021 to January 2022)



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8468022022



9019066066



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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Table of Contents

1. INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD	3	7.1.1. United Nations Security Council (UNSC)	37
1.1. India-China	3	7.2. G20	38
1.2. India-Tibet	4	7.3. World Health Organisation (WHO)	39
1.3. India-Bangladesh	5	7.4. Suspension/Expulsion of countries from International Organisations	39
1.4. India-Nepal	6	7.5. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)	40
1.5. India- Bhutan	6	7.6. Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	41
1.6. Inter-Country River Disputes	7	7.7. 13th Brics summit	42
1.7. Other Important News	8	7.7.1. brics New development bank	43
1.8. Places in News	9	7.8. SAARC	44
2. INDO-PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEAN REGION	12	7.9. Other Important News	44
2.1. Indo-Pacific Construct	12	8. ISSUES RELATED TO SECURITY	47
2.2. First Quad Summit	13	8.1. Nuclear Disarmament	47
2.3. Other Important News	13	8.2. Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate	48
2.4. Places in News	14	8.3. Space Warfare	49
3. INDIA, CENTRAL ASIA AND RUSSIA	17	8.4. Defence Exports	50
3.1. 50 Years of Indo-Soviet Treaty	17	8.5. Integrated Theatre Commands	51
3.1.1. India-Russia Military Cooperation	18	8.6. Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)	52
3.2. India-Central Asia	18	8.7. North East Region	53
4. INDIA AND WEST ASIA	20	8.7.1. 3 rd Bodo Peace Accord	53
4.1. Taliban control over Afghanistan	20	8.8. Island Developmental Strategy	54
4.2. India-Iran	22	8.9. Other Important News	55
4.2.1. Iran Nuclear Deal	22	9. MISCELLANEOUS	60
4.3. India-Palestine Policy	23	9.1. Non-Aligned Movement	60
4.4. Other Important News	24	9.2. Bilateral Investment Treaties	61
4.5. Places in News	25	9.3. Debt Trap Diplomacy	61
5. AMERICAN Continent	28	9.4. India's Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation	63
5.1. India-US	28	9.5. Democratic Principles In Global Governance	64
5.2. Places in News	29	9.6. Digital Sovereignty	65
6. EUROPE	31	9.7. Other Important News	66
6.1. India-UK Relations	31	9.8. Places in News	68
6.2. India-Eurasia	31	10. MILITARY/NAVAL EXERCISES OF INDIA IN NEWS	73
6.3. Other Important News	32		
6.4. Places in News	33		
7. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION/ INSTITUTIONS	36		
7.1. United Nations	36		

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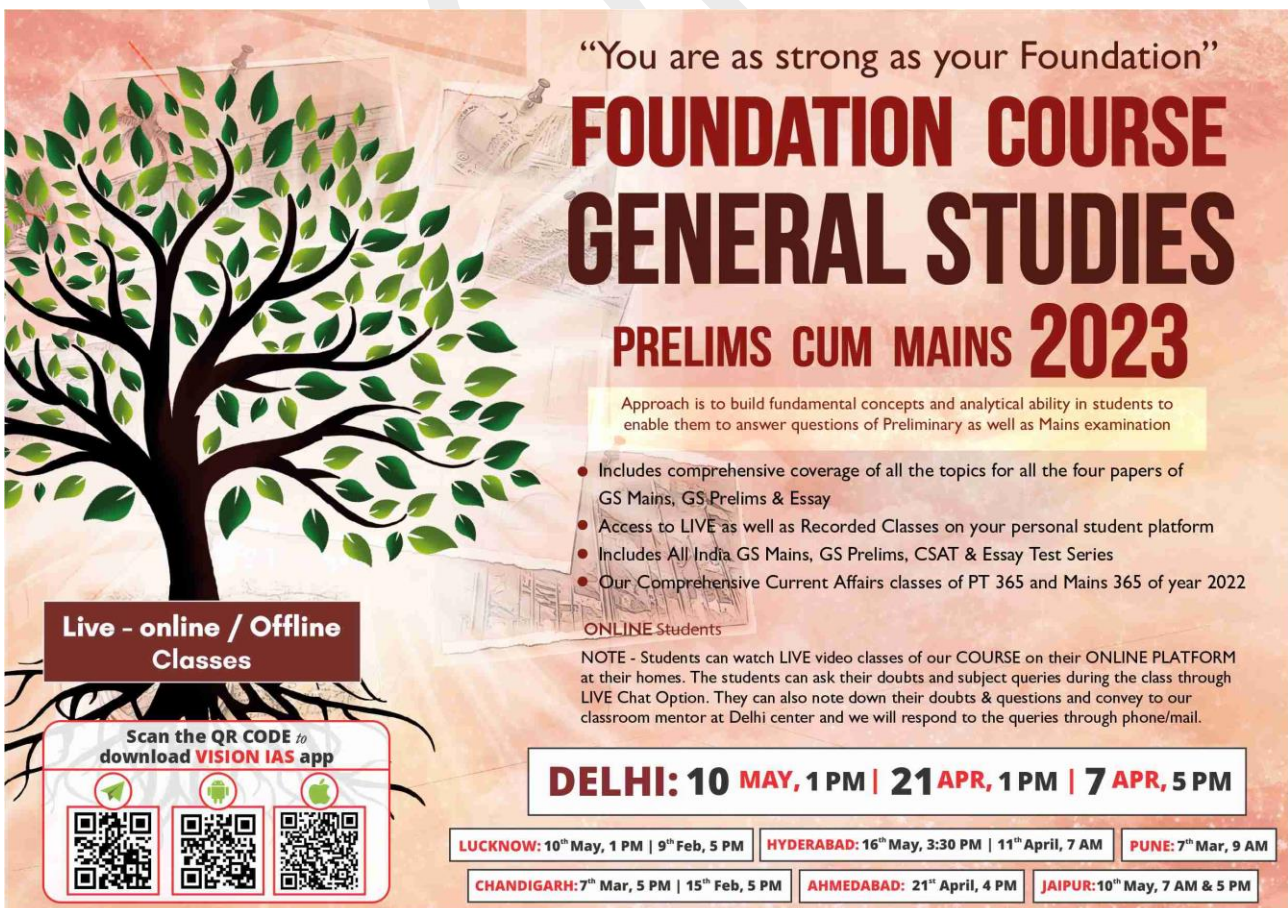
Note:

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

Why in news?

14th round of talks were held between senior military commanders of India and China to find a solution to the long standoff in the mountains of eastern Ladakh.

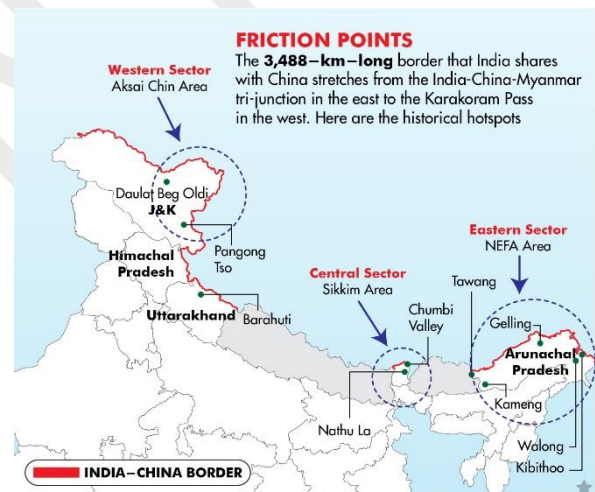
More on news

The two sides issued a joint statement saying that they would consolidate earlier outcomes. This is progress from the 13th round of talks, where no joint statement was issued.

India-China Border dispute

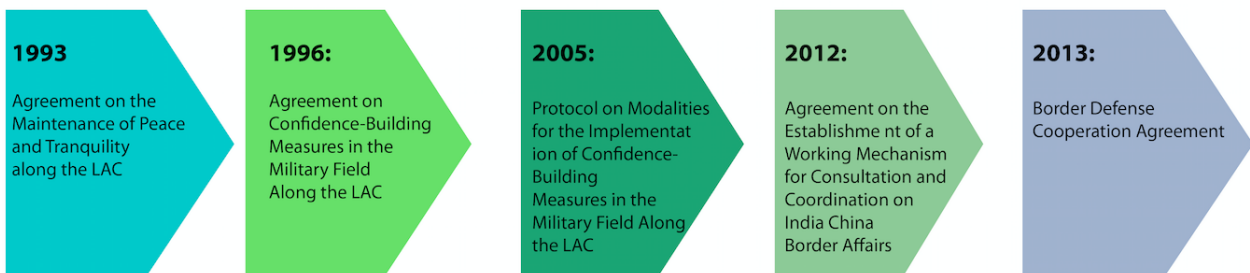
- The border between India and China is **not clearly demarcated** throughout. Along certain stretches of its **3,488-km length**, there is no **mutually agreed Line of Actual Control (LAC)**.
 - China shares its **land boundary with 14 countries including India**, third longest after Mongolia and Russia.
- Border is divided into **three sectors, viz. Western, Middle and Eastern (Refer map)**.
 - Western sector:** It pertains to the **Johnson Line** proposed by the British in the 1860s that put **Aksai Chin in the then princely state of Jammu and Kashmir**. China, however, **does not accept Johnson Line**.
 - Middle sector:** It is the only one where India and China **have exchanged maps on which they broadly agree**.
 - Eastern sector:** The disputed boundary is over the **MacMahon Line**.

Friction points along the LAC in the western sector



Border Disputes Settlement Mechanism

A series of five agreements signed between India and China to address disputes arising over the LAC:



Related News

One China Policy

Recent US declaration to defend Taiwan if China Attacks is seemingly changing of long-standing American “strategic ambiguity” on the issue.

- US recognises China’s claims over Taiwan under its One-China Policy but under the Taiwan Relations Act, 1979, US is committed to help Taiwan in the event of invasion by China.
 - Under one China Policy, countries seeking diplomatic relations with People’s Republic of China (PRC, Mainland China) must break official relations with the Republic of China (ROC, Taiwan) and vice versa.
- India’s stand has been of recognising the “One China policy” since 1949 but since 2010 India stopped the use of the “One China Policy” in the backdrop of increased Chinese aggressions at the Line of Actual Control.

One Country Two Systems (OCTS)

Recently China’s National People’s Congress (NPC) approved Hong Kong National Security Law. This brought a decades-old policy of the People’s Republic of China back into focus — One Country Two Systems.

About One Country Two Systems policy

- It 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 mainland China.
 - ✓ These freedoms are protected by the Basic Law, a mini constitution that guides relationship between Hong Kong and China.



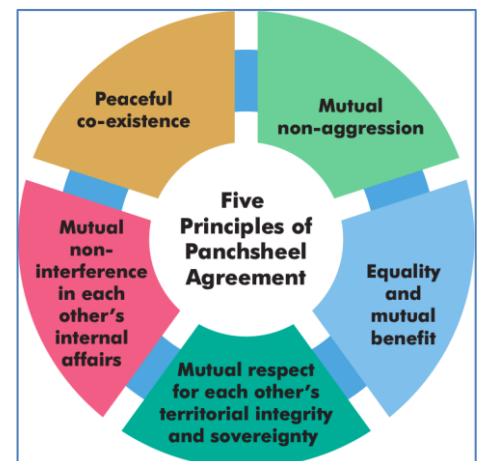
1.2. INDIA-TIBET

Why in News?

China has completed construction of a strategically significant highway in Tibet, enabling greater access to remote areas along the disputed border with Arunachal Pradesh in India.

Facts about Tibet

- Often dubbed as ‘Asia’s Water Tower’, Tibet’s glaciers feed Asia’s great rivers, the Brahmaputra, Mekong, Yangtze, Indus, Yellow and Salween. Mineral water from the plateau has become one of the region’s first commercially tapped resources.
- China’s biggest copper deposit is at Tibet’s Yulong copper mine. Tibet also has large iron, lead, zinc, and cadmium deposits, minerals China needs to feed its booming economy. Geologists believe that Tibet also possess significant crude oil and natural gas reserves.
- Buddhism was introduced in Tibet by Indians. It is the home of Dalai Lama, religious leader deeply respected by the people of India.
- After Panchsheel Agreement or the “Agreement on Trade and Intercourse between the Tibet region of China and India (1954)”, India gave up extra territorial rights in Tibet such as



military escorts, post offices, telegraph etc. Thus India accepted the principle that **Tibet constitutes an integral part of China**.

Tibet Policy and Support Act (TPSA) of USA, 2020

- TPSA calls for the establishment of a **U.S. consulate in Tibet's main city of Lhasa**, the absolute right of Tibetans to choose a **successor to the Dalai Lama** and the preservation of **Tibet's environment**.
- It formally acknowledges **Central Tibetan Administration (CTA)** as the **legitimate institution** reflecting the aspirations of the Tibetan diaspora around the world.

1.3. INDIA-BANGLADESH

Why in News?

The year 2021 marked 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 (nearly \$9.5 Bn).
 - 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 also 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 Port 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

Why in news?

Recently, there was discontent in Nepal over reports claiming that India is undertaking construction activities in areas that Nepal has included in its map.

Facts about the issue

- The Nepal government published a map including 370 sq km with Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura, months after India had those areas in its map (see infographic).
- **Nepal considers the 1816 Treaty of Sugauli** (signed between Gurkha rulers of Kathmandu and East India Company) **as only authentic document** on boundary delineation.
 - Sugauli Treaty **marks Kali river** (called Mahakali in Nepal) **as north-western border with India**.
- However, **origin of Kali river is interpreted differently**.
 - **For Nepal, river originates from Limpiyadhura** in the higher Himalayas, giving it access to a triangular-shaped land defined by Limpiyadhura-Lipulekh and Kalapani.
 - For India, **river begins in the village of Kalapani**, which reduces Nepal's territorial demand.
- **Significance of the region**
 - Lipulekh pass has been **used by pilgrims and tourists on their way to Kailash Mansarovar**.
 - Height of the Lipulekh pass **aids India's surveillance of Chinese movements**.
- Recent skirmishes in the relations was earlier caused by **2015 border blockade** following protests by Madhesis (people of Indian ancestry residing in the Terai of Nepal) and some other ethnic groups against marginalisation of their interests in the Nepalese constitution.



1.5. INDIA- 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**.



- 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**”.

1.6. INTER-COUNTRY RIVER DISPUTES

Why in news?

The recent flooding in north Bihar (the Mithilanchal region) indicates that flood control in Bihar is contingent upon inter-governmental river-basin cooperation between India and Nepal.

India’s river water disputes and current mechanism of cooperation



Countries	Mechanism for cooperation
India-Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kosi Treaty of 1954, under which the embankments in Nepal were established and maintained. • The Mahakali Treaty pertains to sharing water of a river by the same name.
India-Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 allocated three western rivers (the Indus, Chenab and Jhelum) to Pakistan, and the three eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas and Sutlej) to India. • It was signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, with the World Bank also being a signatory.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A notable feature of IWT was establishment of Permanent Indus Commission, with one commissioner from each country to implement IWT as well as settle differences and disputes by agreement, neutral expert, court of arbitration or any other manner as agreed.
India-China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorandum of Understanding upon sharing of Hydrological Information of the River Brahmaputra and Sutlej. Expert-Level Mechanism to discuss interaction and cooperation on provision of flood season hydrological data and emergency management.
India-Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ganges Treaty is an agreement to share surface waters at the Farakka Barrage near their mutual border. System of Transmission of flood forecasting data on major rivers like Ganga, Teesta, Brahmaputra, and Barak during the monsoon season.
India-Bhutan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive Scheme for Establishment of Hydro-meteorological and Flood Forecasting Network on rivers Common to India and Bhutan. A Joint Group of Expert (JGE) on Flood Management.

1.7. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

<p>Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC)</p>	<p>India's Foreign Minister during the 11th MGC meeting said that India is seeking a multi-dimensional engagement with the Mekong region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MGC initiative comprising six countries — India, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam — was launched in 2000 to boost cooperation in a range of areas including connectivity, education, tourism and culture. 	
<p>India-Vietnam</p>	<p>Fifth anniversary of the India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership was celebrated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the backdrop of the anniversary celebrations, the countries signed three memorandum of understanding in parliamentary cooperation, information technology and marine sciences. India-Vietnam relations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India and Vietnam, with historical roots in the common struggle for liberation from colonial rule, share traditionally close and cordial bilateral relations. Relations between the two countries were elevated to the level of 'Strategic Partnership' during in 2007 and further elevated to a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" in 2016. Initiatives to boost relations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Swami Vivekananda Indian Cultural Centre (SVCC) was established in Hanoi to foster closer links between peoples of both countries through cultural exchanges. Under the Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) framework, India has been taking up Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), each valued at US\$ 50,000, in different provinces of Vietnam for development of community infrastructure. India has given Vietnam \$600 million line of credit for buying defense equipment from India. 	

1.8. PLACES IN NEWS

ASIA



S. N.	Place	Detailed map
1.	<p>South China Sea (SCS) China's aircraft carrier task group recently conducted an exercise in SCS, which it described as routine training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2016, China rejected UNCLOS Arbitral Tribunal ruling which said that China cannot claim historic rights to resources in the waters within a “nine-dash line” encompassing much of SCS. About UNCLOS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an international agreement that resulted from the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III). 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. India signed the Convention in 1982 and ratified in 1995. 	

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<p>2.</p>	<p>Agalega Islands, Mauritius</p> <p>Mauritius denies report of allowing Indian military base on Agalega islands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It consists of North Island and South Island. • In 2015, India signed an agreement with Mauritius for development of Agalega Islands. 	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Chagos Island</p> <p>Mauritius has welcomed the Universal Postal Union's (UPU- UN postal agency) decision to ban British stamps from being used on the Chagos archipelago.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although Mauritius became independent in 1968, the Chagos archipelago remained under British control. • Britain and the US operate a joint military base on the island. 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Mount Kun Peak (Suru Valley, Kargil)</p> <p>Recently, the Defence Minister flagged-in a National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (NIMAS) team on completion of Mountain Kun expedition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount Kun Peak is located in the Nun-Kun Mountain Massif, the highest feature of Zaskar range with Mountain Nun (7,135 metres) and Kun (7,077 metres). • It was first climbed in 1913 by Italian Mountaineers Mario Piacenza and Borelli ed Gaspard. 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Sakteng Region, Bhutan</p> <p>China has laid claims to Bhutan's Eastern Sakteng region including Bhutan Sakteng wildlife sanctuary.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Maldives</p> <p>Recently, the contract for the largest-ever infrastructure project- Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP)- in the Maldives was signed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMCP will consist of causeway link between Male and nearby islands of Villingili, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi. • Indian construction giant AFCONS has been tasked with completing the project. 	

7. **Gwadar port**
 Area is witnessing protests in the **backdrop of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) work in progress.**

- **About Gwadar**
 - Located in the southwestern province of Balochistan.
 - It is a **warm water, deep sea port situated on the Arabian sea.**
 - It forms a natural hammerhead-shaped peninsula.
- **In its close vicinity is the Chabahar port,** in Iran on the Gulf of Oman. It is being developed by India and is significant from trade and security perspective for India.



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प्रारंभिक एवं मुख्य परीक्षा 2023

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- 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
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2. INDO-PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEAN REGION

2.1. INDO-PACIFIC CONSTRUCT

Why in News?

Indo-Pacific constructs by different countries were in the news.

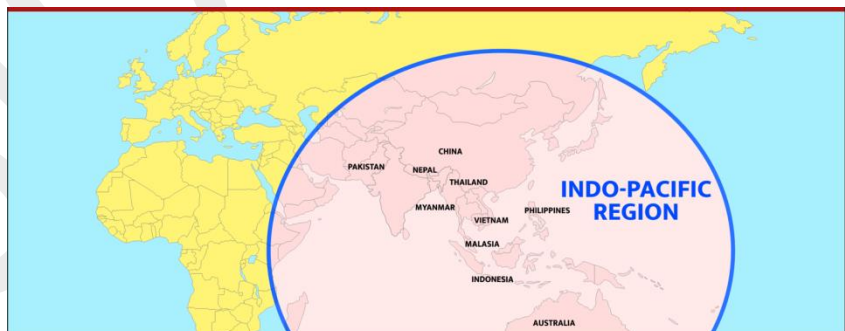
India	Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's IPOI was launched at the East Asia Summit in November 2019, which is an open, non-treaty based initiative for countries to work together for cooperative and collaborative solutions to common challenges in the region. The Pillars of India's IPOI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maritime Security Maritime Ecology and Maritime Resources Capacity Building and Information Sharing Maritime Connectivity Disaster Management
Japan	Free and open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)
EU	EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific

About Indo-Pacific

- It is a **geographical construct** that has emerged as a substitute to the long prevalent "Asia-Pacific" which represented the eastwards shift of global developments from Euro-Atlantic dimension.
- It is an integrated theatre that **combines the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean and the land masses that surround them.**
 - Since it is primarily a maritime space, the **Indo-Pacific is also associated with maritime security and cooperation.**
- Different countries interpret the region differently.** Countries like US describe the Indo-Pacific as the region that starts at the Western shore of the Americas and ends at the shores of the Indian subcontinent. For India and Japan, the concept is much broader in expanse, extending to the shores of African continent.
- Major stakeholders in the region include-** India, USA, Australia, Japan, ASEAN countries and other maritime nations that occupy the strategic positions in the Indian and Pacific Ocean including small island countries.

Reasons for global shift towards Indo-Pacific

- Important Sea Lines of Communication (SLOC):** Presence of key choke points, from Mozambique Channel and Bab-el-Mandeb in the west to Lombok Strait in the east.
- Trade and Economy:** Region includes 65% of the world population; accounts for 62% of world GDP; and contributes to 46% of the world's merchandise trade.
- Richness in Natural resources:** Including- Offshore Hydrocarbons, Methane hydrates, Sea Bed minerals, Rare earth metals, fisheries etc.
- China factor:** China's aggressive foreign policy, rapid economic expansion, military modernization and power projection has raised several red flags among regional and extra-regional countries.



Related news

Japan, Australia sign Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA)

- RAA is a new agreement to cooperate closely on defence **to bolster security ties against the backdrop of rising Chinese military and economic might.**
 - RAA will allow Australian and Japanese militaries **to work seamlessly with each other on defence and humanitarian operations.**
- RAA will also pave way for an **enhanced contribution** by Japan and Australia **to the peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific region.**
 - Earlier several nations including France, Germany and European Union also released their Indo-pacific strategy.

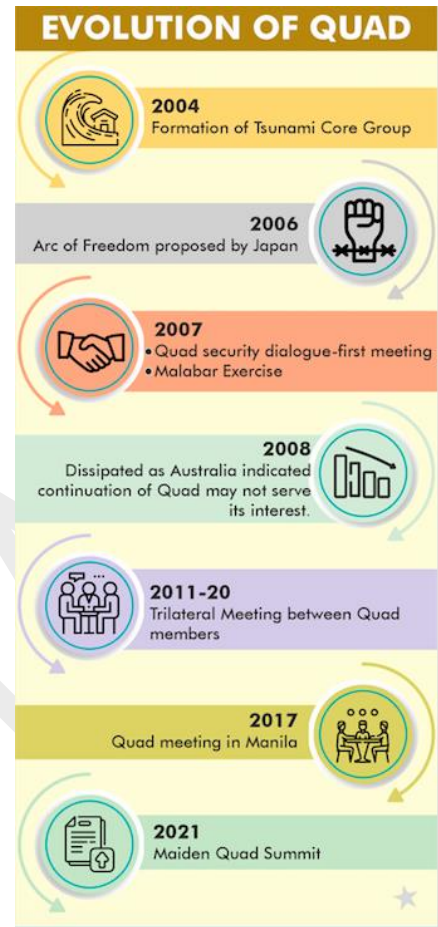
2.2. FIRST QUAD SUMMIT

Why in News?

Recently, first ever in-person meeting of the Quad was held.

About Quad

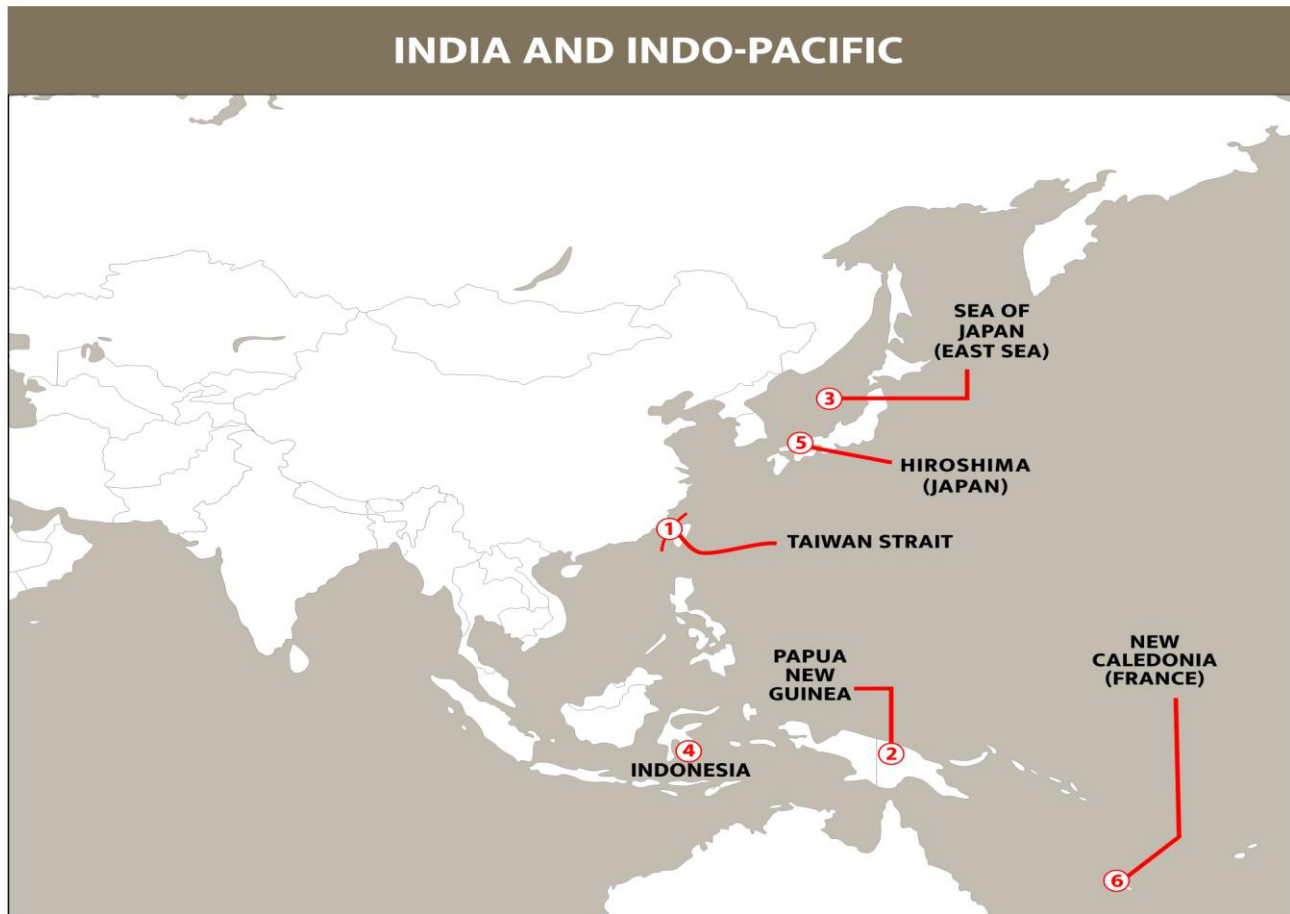
- Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is an **informal association of India, the United States, Australia, and Japan.**
- The group met for the **first time in 2007 on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).**
 - Its origin can be traced back to the **evolution of Exercise Malabar and the 2004 Tsunami** when India conducted relief and rescue operations for itself and neighboring countries and was later joined by the US, Japan and Australia.
- **The summit announced the Key initiatives to be taken by the Quad**
 - **Launch the Quad Infrastructure Coordination Group:** Building on the G7's announcement of Build Back Better World (B3W), these groups will rally expertise, capacity, and influence to strengthen ongoing infrastructure initiatives in the region and identify new opportunities.
 - **Establish a Clean-Hydrogen Partnership:** To strengthen and reduce costs across all elements of the clean-hydrogen value chain.
 - **Enhance Climate Adaptation, Resilience, and Preparedness in the Indo-Pacific**
 - **Launch a Semiconductor Supply Chain Initiative** To map capacity, identify vulnerabilities, and bolster supply-chain security for semiconductors and their vital components.
 - **Common approach to emerging technologies, cyber security, and addressing the challenge of climate change** was also discussed among the members.



2.3. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

<p>Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)</p>	<p>Recently, Trade ministers of India, Australia, and Japan decided to launch an initiative on supply chain resilience (first proposed by Japan) and invited like-minded countries in the Indo-Pacific region to join the initiative.</p> <p>About SCRI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attract foreign direct investment to turn the Indo-Pacific into an economic powerhouse. ○ Build a mutually complementary relationship among partner countries. <div data-bbox="750 1451 1441 1668" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>About Global Supply Chain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. </div>
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2.4. PLACES IN NEWS



S. N.	Place	Detailed Map
1.	<p>Taiwan Strait Recently, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) included Taiwan Strait in talks for peace and stability, after its mention in G-7 and joint statement from USA with Japan and South Korea.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taiwan Strait, also known as Famosa Strait, with average width of 180 km, separates Taiwan from Fujian province of Mainland China, i.e. connecting the South China Sea and East China Sea. 	
2.	<p>Papua New Guinea (Capital: Port Moresby) The country has banned flights from India indefinitely accusing India's diplomats of "deception" over apparent breaches to Covid-19 travel rules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The country is the world's third largest island country with an area of more than 4.6 lakh sq km. The island is bordered by Bismarck Archipelago island (new Britain, New Ireland), The Admiralty island, Bougainville island and Buka (part of Solomon island). 	

<p>3.</p>	<p>Sea of Japan (East Sea) A submerged Russian submarine has successfully launched a cruise missile from the Sea of Japan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical boundary: It is bounded by Japan and Sakhalin Island to the east and by Russia and Korea on the Asian mainland to the west. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is connected with the East China Sea in the south and with the Okhotsk Sea in the north. • Important conflict: Japan lays claim to the Russian-held southern Kuril islands in the nearby Sea of Okhotsk, which Tokyo refers to as the Northern Territories. 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Indonesia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently, Indonesia has announced to shift its capital from Jakarta to East Kalimantan. • New capital will be called Nusantara, meaning "archipelago" in Javanese. • Indonesia is the largest archipelago of the world with over 17,000 islands straddling the equator in Southeast Asia • It is the fourth most populous nation of the world and shares: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land border with Malaysia (on the island of Borneo), with Papua New Guinea (on the island of New Guinea), and with Timor-Leste (East Timor) on the island of Timor. ○ Maritime borders with Australia, India, Palau, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Hiroshima (Japan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan marked 75 years of the atomic bombing on Hiroshima on 6th August, 2020 • The Manhattan Project created two atomic bombs- the first one, called 'The Little Boy' was dropped in the city of Hiroshima while the second one, dubbed 'The Fat Man', was dropped in Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, respectively. 	

6. **New Caledonia (France)**
Voters in the French island territory of New Caledonia chose to stay part of France in a referendum boycotted by pro-independence forces.

- Under the **Nouméa Accord of 1998, New Caledonia has limited autonomy** within the French legal system.



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3. INDIA, CENTRAL ASIA AND RUSSIA

3.1. 50 YEARS OF INDO-SOVIET TREATY

Why in news?

Recently, the 50th anniversary of the **Indo-Soviet Treaty on Peace, Friendship and Cooperation** signed in 1971 was celebrated.

Key features of the Treaty

Peace	Friendship	Cooperation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each Party shall respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the other party and refrain from interfering in the other's internal affairs. To halt the arms race and to achieve general and complete disarmament, including both nuclear and conventional, under effective international control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The treaty condemned colonialism and reclaimed for their complete elimination. The treaty aims to maintain regular contacts with each other on major international problems affecting the interests of both countries by means of meetings and exchanges of views. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treaty binds both parties to abstain from providing any assistance to any third party that engages in armed conflict with the other Party. To consolidate and expand mutual co-operation in economic, scientific and technological fields on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual benefit and most-favored-nation treatment.

India-Russia relations

- Defence partnership:** The defence ties rest on 3 features of **technology transfer, joint development, marketing & selling and export of equipment**, an agreement non-existent with any other country. It has provided significant enhancement to India's indigenous defence manufacturing.
 - Some of the major defence collaboration programs are- **BrahMos Cruise Missile program**, Sukhoi Su30 and Tactical Transport Aircraft.
- Economic Relations:** It is an important pillar of the relations yet there remains a lot of scope to improve it further. With bilateral trade of just \$7.5 bn in 2019, India and Russia are exploring various ways for enhancing bilateral trade.
- Energy Security:** In Energy sector Russia has built nuclear reactors in India (Kudankulam reactors), adopted strategic vision in nuclear energy, offered oil, gas and investment opportunities in the fuel sector of Russia e.g., Sakhalin- I etc.
 - Both are extending civil nuclear cooperation to 3rd countries, e.g., Bangladesh.
- Space technology:** India and Russia have a four-decade strong relationship in the field of space. The former Soviet Union launched India's first two satellites, Aryabhata and Bhaskar. It has provided India Cryogenic technology to build heavy rockets.
- International standing:** Russia has supported **India's bid for permanent seat in UNSC**. It has been favouring Indian entry to Nuclear Supplier Group. Both countries coordinate each other over various forums including BRICS, SCO, G20 etc.
- Cultural Relations:** Programs like 'Namaste Russia' and sharing educational brilliance of both the countries through institutes like Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre.

Related News

Eastern Economic Forum

- Speaking at **6th Eastern Economic Forum summit**, India highlighted the time-tested friendship between India and Russia.
- About Eastern Economic Forum**
 - Established in 2015, Eastern Economic Forum is an **international forum held each year in Vladivostok (Russia)**.
 - It works towards the economic **development of Russia's Far East** and expand international cooperation in the Asia Pacific region by encouraging foreign investment.
 - In 2019, India launched **its Act Far East Policy at the forum, providing a US\$1 billion line of credit** for development of the resource-rich region.

3.1.1. INDIA-RUSSIA MILITARY COOPERATION

Why in News?

At the recently held 21st **India-Russia summit**, both nations signed a **10-year defence cooperation pact** in the background of ongoing deliveries of the **S-400 air defence systems**.

More on news

Despite US threat of sanctions, India began taking deliveries of the **S-400 Triumf Air Defence Missile System** (under a \$5.4 billion deal of 2018) for supply of five S-400 regiments to offset air defence capability gaps.

Major agreements at 21st India-Russia Summit

Along with the defence cooperation, the major agreements signed between two nations include-

- **Joint production** of more than **600,000 AK-203 assault rifles** to advance self-reliance in the defence manufacturing sector.
- Promote greater economic cooperation with target to increase **bilateral trade to \$30b** and **bilateral investments to \$50b by 2025**.
- **Reserve Bank of India** and **Bank of Russia** to jointly respond against **cyberattacks**, jointly fight against terrorist organizations like **ISIS-Al Qaeda-LeT**, drug trafficking and organised crime etc.

S-400 Triumf Air Defence Missile System and CAATSA

- The S-400 air defence system is one of the **most advanced mobile air defence missile system in the world**. It is equipped with four different missiles, and it can engage enemy aircraft, ballistic missiles, and Airborne Warning And Control System (AWACS) planes at multiple ranges.
- **CAATSA Act**, also known as **Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act**, was enacted by USA in 2017 to impose sanctions on three nations, i.e., Russia, Iran, and North Korea.
- Apart from sanctions on the three nations, the act also imposes sanctions on countries who deal with these nations. This **brings the current S-400 deal between India and Russia under this orbit**.
- But US cannot afford to alienate a **strategic ally and a defense market like India**. As a result, the US lawmakers have introduced a bill for sanction waiver to avoid retaliatory US actions on India. But only time can tell what the future holds for this quagmire.

3.2. INDIA-CENTRAL ASIA

Why in news?

India hosted the first **India-Central Asia Summit** in virtual format.

About Central Asia

- Central Asian Republics include Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- These countries form a part of **India's extended neighbourhood**.
- These 5 countries are also members of the **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation**,
- **Importance of CAR for India:**
 - **Geostrategic importance** i.e. bridge between different regions of Asia and between Europe and Asia.
 - Security angle for **ensuring peace in the region**.
 - CAR has **abundant mineral resources** such as **petroleum, natural gas, gold, uranium** etc which are yet to be harnessed.



- In the recent summit, India floated a 'four C' approach: Focusing on commerce, capacity enhancement, connectivity and contacts to further expand the cooperation between the India and Central Asia.
- Recently, the 40 nations' international conference on 'Central and South Asia Regional Connectivity: Challenges and Opportunities' took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Connectivity efforts by India in Central Asia

- **India's Connect central Asia policy:** formulated in 2012, it is a broad-based approach, including political, security, economic and cultural connections.
- **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) agreement** in 2000 also offers land connectivity between India and Central Asia through Iran.
- India has also explored the possibility of **connecting with Central Asia via Iran's Chabahar port** and thereafter overland corridors passing through Afghanistan.
- To facilitate transport of goods between India and Central Asia via Iran, India acceded to the Customs Convention on International Transport of Goods under cover of **TIR Carnets in 2017** and joined the **Ashgabat Agreement**, which includes **Iran, Oman, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan** in 2018.

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4. INDIA AND WEST ASIA

4.1. TALIBAN CONTROL OVER AFGHANISTAN

Why in news?

Taliban have seized power in Afghanistan and captured Kabul after by the U.S. withdrawal from the country.

More on news

- India conducted **Operation Devi Shakti** to evacuate more than 800 people including its citizens and Afghan partners from Afghanistan.

About Taliban

- The Taliban, which means “students” in the Pashto language, emerged in 1994 around the southern Afghan city of Kandahar.
- It was one of the **factions fighting a civil war for control of the country following the withdrawal of the Soviet Union in 1989** and subsequent collapse of the government in 1992.
- By 1998, it had taken control of almost all of the country and were only removed from power by US-led forces in 2001.
- During their rule, they enforced their own hard-liner version of Sharia, or Islamic law, accompanied by introduction of brutal punishments, restricting women’s right to education and free movement, banning of music and cinema etc.

Related News

Taliban, Afghan Civil Society Members began Oslo Talks.

- Discussions, which are being facilitated by **Norway**, are to **focus on human rights and the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.**
- Humanitarian situation has deteriorated drastically since August 2021**, when Taliban stormed back to power 20 years after being toppled.



Did you Know?

Operation Devi Shakti was not India's first experience in rescuing people from conflict zones. Following are the biggest international evacuation operations that India has conducted since 2000-



Operation Sukoon, 2006 to evacuate Indians, Sri Lankans and Nepalese citizens from war-hit **Lebanon.**



Operation Safe Homecoming, 2011 to evacuate Indian citizens fleeing from the Civil War in **Libya.**



Operation Raahat, 2015 to evacuate Indians as well as foreign citizens from conflict-hit **Yemen.**



Indian investments in Afghanistan



Assistance in constructing, upgrading, rebuilding or restoring buildings and various types of infrastructure. Examples–

- Building of Afghanistan's Parliament in Kabul.
- Reconstruction of the Salma dam, now known as the Afghan-India Friendship Dam.
- Establishment of an electricity transmission line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul.
- Construction of Zaranj-Delaram road.
- High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) program to finance medium scale projects in areas such as education, health, water management, government buildings, sport facilities, agriculture and irrigation, etc.



Transfer of various objects like ambulances, buses, biscuits, medicine, military vehicles and helicopters, etc. Examples–

- Mi-25 and Mi-35 choppers for the air force.
- Airbus aircraft for the national airlines.
- Materials for substations and a transmission line in the Faryab province.
- Military vehicles for the Afghan National Army.
- Ambulances for public hospitals.



People-to-people exchanges in the form of offers for Afghan citizens to gain knowledge and experience from India. Examples–

- Providing Indian technical advisers to Afghan institutions
- Offering scholarships for Afghan students.
- Organizing training for Afghan soldiers, policemen and public servants.

Places in News from Afghanistan

- **Dahla Dam**
 - It is the primary source of irrigation for the Kandahar province, Afghanistan. it was built by the United States in 1952.
- **Bagram Airfield**
 - First built by Soviet, **Bagram Air Base was the largest air base of USA in Afghanistan for nearly 20 years due to its proximity to Kabul.**
 - Nikki Haley, former US envoy to United Nations, **claimed that China is making moves to occupy Bagram Air Base, once occupied by USA.**
 - In case of aerial warfare, **China can use it against India to overcome the strategic disadvantages** it suffers due to the great heights of Tibet on India-China border.
- **Zaranj, Nimroz Province:** Zaranj became the first provincial capital to fall to the Taliban since the US has reached a deal with the group for a US troop pullout in 2020.
 - As a symbol of India's commitment to Afghanistan's reconstruction and rebuilding, India built the Zaranj-Delaram Highway. Through it, India could extend supplies to Afghanistan via the Chabahar Port in Iran.
- **Mazar-i-Sharif:** India will temporarily relocate India-based personnel from the consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif.
 - The decision came after the Government gave an **urgent call for evacuation of all Indian Nationals** from the Afghan city in a special flight.
- **Panjshir Valley**
 - Panjshir is located in Hindukush Mountains and the entire valley is located along Panjshir River which flows all along its length.
 - Almost 100% of the population of this valley are Ethnic Tajiks.
 - Special Feature- it has rich deposits of Silver, Various types of crystals including Emeralds and rare earth minerals too.



- Known as graveyard of the invaders as no invader could succeed to conquer.
- **Kandahar:** With the Taliban fighters at Kandhar gates, India evacuated its diplomats and other staffers from the **Kandahar consulate** as a precautionary measure.
- Kandahar is the **second main city of Afghanistan** (after Kabul) lying on a plain next to the **Tarnak River** in **south-central Afghanistan**.

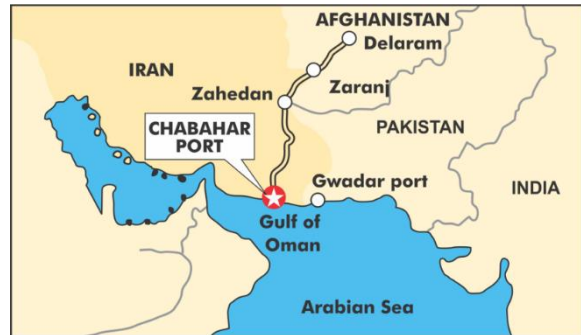
4.2. INDIA-IRAN

Why in News?

Iran recently decided to develop Farzad B gas field domestically, cutting off India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Videsh (OVL)'s hopes of landing the lucrative contract.

About Farzad-B Gas field

- Farzad B is an **offshore natural gas field** located in **Persian Gulf** (Iran).
- It lies in the Farsi block **on the border between Iran and Saudi Arabia**.
- The Farzad-B gas field holds 23 trillion cubic feet of in-place gas reserves, of which about 60% is recoverable.
- It also holds gas condensates of about 5,000 barrels per billion cubic feet of gas.
- The gas field **was discovered in 2008 by OVL**, the overseas investment arm of India's state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC).



Other Indian investments in Iran: 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 Chabahar to be around 1000 kms and that from Chabahar to Mumbai around 1450 kms.
- Chabahar has two terminals - **Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti**.
- Shahid Beheshti is being developed jointly by India Afghanistan and Iran under **the Trilateral Transit Agreement signed in 2016**.
- India has been granted a 10-year lease to develop and operate two terminals and five berths at Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar.

Related 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.



4.2.1. IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

Why in news?

Iran, Russia, China, and the European countries have resumed negotiations in Vienna to revive the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear agreement.

About JCPOA

- JCPOA also known as 2015 Iran nuclear deal was signed between Iran and P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, UK and US). In 2018, US withdrew from the deal.
- Under the terms of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), **Iran was prohibited from enriching uranium above 3.67%** with exception of research reactor activities.
 - Enriched uranium above 90% can be used in a nuclear weapon.
- Iran also agreed to implement a protocol that would allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to access its nuclear sites to ensure Iran would not be able to develop nuclear weapons in secret.

About International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- IAEA is the international centre for cooperation in the nuclear field, widely known as the world’s “Atoms for Peace and Development” organization within the United Nations family.
- The Agency works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.
- The IAEA was **created in 1957** in response to the deep fears and expectations generated by the discoveries and diverse uses of nuclear technology.
- IAEA’s **headquarters is in Vienna, Austria**.
- It is an independent international organization that reports annually to the UN General Assembly. When necessary, the IAEA also reports to the UN Security Council with regard to instances of members’ non-compliance with safeguards and security obligations.

4.3. INDIA-PALESTINE POLICY

Why in news?

Recently, violent clashes erupted between **Israeli and Palestinian factions** in the **Gaza Strip** which have ended with **Israel and Hamas agreeing to an Egypt-mediated ceasefire**.



What is the two-state solution?

- It means that an independent, sovereign **Palestine state** and an independent, sovereign **Israeli state** would coexist in peace
- The first proposal for the creation of Jewish and Arab states in the British Mandate of Palestine was made in the **Peel Commission report of 1937** which proposed that Palestine be partitioned into three zones: **an Arab state, a Jewish state, and a neutral territory containing the holy places**.
- It was also reflected in **United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine of 1947** but was **rejected by Arabs** at that time.
- It was only in 1991 when **Two State Solution was agreed** upon during US mediated **Madrid Peace Conference**.
- India supports the Two State Solution** aimed at addressing the legitimate aspirations of Palestinians for Statehood and Israel’s security concerns.

India's Israel-Palestine Policy

- **Madrid Peace Conference, 1991:** India established **full diplomatic relations with Israel in 1992**, in the context of improving Israel-Palestine ties after the **Madrid Conference of 1991** (where a **Two State Solution** was agreed upon) and the changes in the global order following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, but never abandoned the Palestinians
 - **De-hyphenation policy:** In 2018, India adopted **de-hyphenation policy** which simply means that **India's relationship with Israel would stand on its own merits, independent and separate from India's relationship with the Palestinians.**

Religious Significance of Jerusalem:

- Jerusalem contains sites sacred to Judaism, Islam and Christianity like:
 - **Al Aqsa mosque**, the world's third holiest site in Islam.
 - **Western Wall**, a place sacred to the Judaism.
 - **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, a church built on the traditional site of Jesus' Crucifixion and burial, is sacred to Christianity.

Related News

New QUAD

- **India, Israel, UAE, U.S. decide to launch quadrilateral economic forum** to enhance cooperation and partnerships between these states **on the back of the Abraham Accords.**
- **Abraham accords** signed in December 2020, normalised relations **between Israel and a grouping of Arab states led by the UAE.**
- The idea of an **Indo-Abrahamic Accord** between India, the UAE and Israel was first suggested by **Mohammed Soliman**, an Egyptian scholar based in Washington.
- **Significance**
 - The new mini-lateral suggests India is now ready to **move** towards an **integrated regional policy.**
 - **It demonstrates** feasibility of a **non-ideological engagement** with the Middle East.
 - The forum will focus on **non-military issues** like trade, energy, and environment and promoting public goods.
 - It will give more **political and diplomatic space** for the balancing act amidst the **various fissures of the region** over the decades.
- Recently, **United Arab Emirates (UAE) also became the first Gulf Nation to open its embassy in Tel-Aviv** as part of diplomatic relation normalisation with Israel.

India-Israel FTA

- **India's dialogue with Israel for concluding a FTA coincides with the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.**
- Relations between the two countries **started right after the creation of the State of Israel in 1948** and reached its **peak with the establishment of full diplomatic relations in 1992.**
 - In 2017, during the **first-ever visit** by an Indian Prime Minister to Israel, the **relationship was upgraded to strategic partnership.**
- **Major areas of cooperation:**
 - **Economic:** India is Israel's **third-largest trade partner in Asia** and seventh largest globally.
 - **Agriculture:** Both countries have signed a **three-year work program (2021-2023) for development in Agriculture cooperation to benefit local farmers.**
 - **Defence & Security:** Israel has been among India's **top three arms suppliers** for the last five years.
 - **Cultural Relationship:** There are approximately 85,000 Jews of Indian-origin in Israel.

India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F)

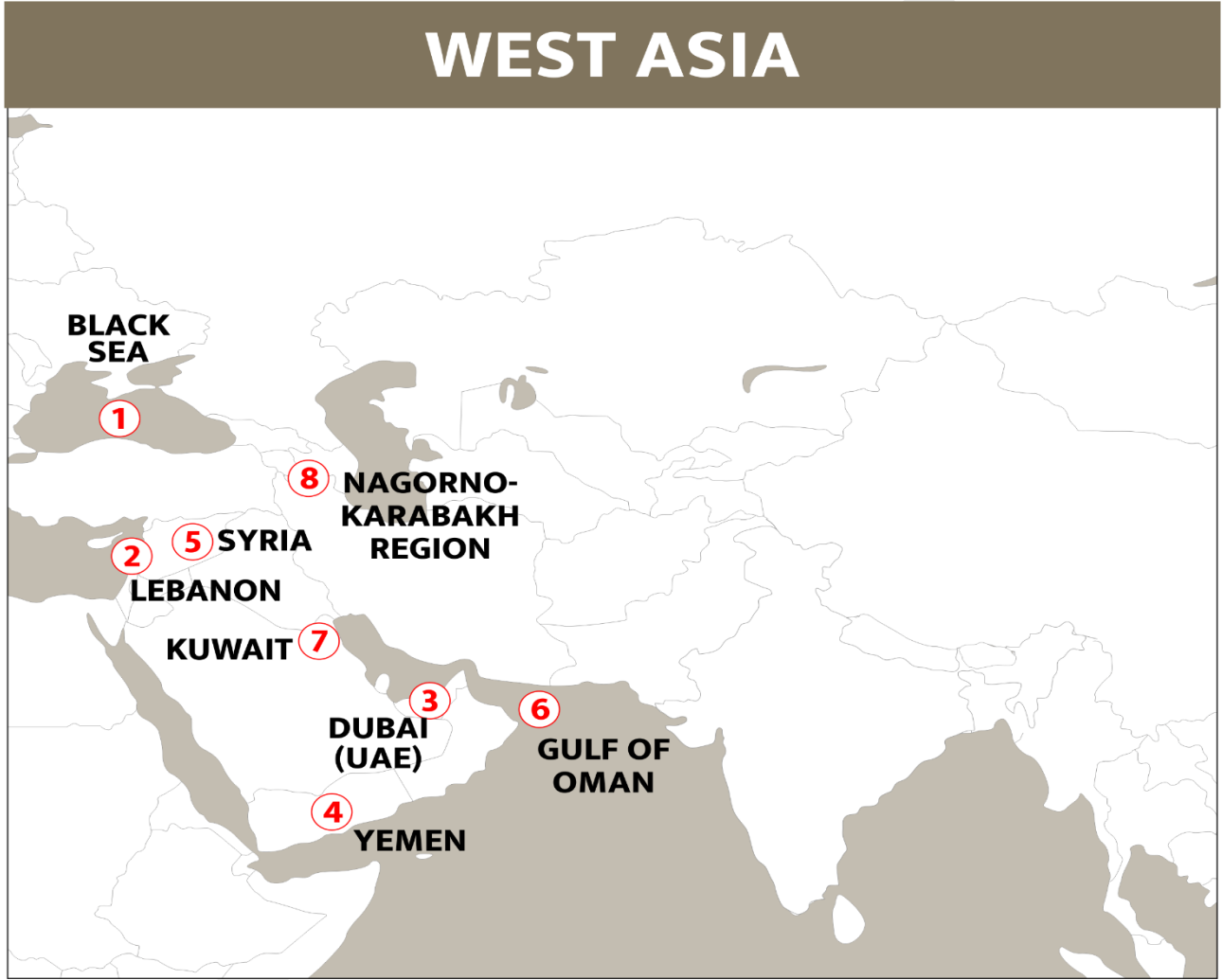
- Experts from India Israel approved 3 joint R&D projects worth 5.5 million \$ under I4F.
 - I4F is a cooperation between India, and Israel to **promote, facilitate and support joint industrial R&D projects between companies from India and Israel** to address the challenges in the agreed 'Focus Sectors'.
 - It is aimed to promote, facilitate and support joint industrial R&D between India & Israel, which would lead to the co-development and commercialization of innovative technologies benefiting both countries.

4.4. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

<p>India – United Arab Emirates</p>	<p>India-UAE began Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About India-UAE trade relations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ India-UAE trade is valued close to \$60 billion in 2019-20 with UAE being India's third-largest trading partner. ○ UAE is India's third-biggest goods export market in FY21, behind only the US and China. ○ UAE is a major source of FDI in India.
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<p>India-Oman</p>	<p>India, Oman to hold 10th Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JMCC is the highest forum of defence engagement that provides guidance to overall framework of defence exchanges between the two sides. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diplomatic relations were established in 1955 and relationship was upgraded to Strategic partnership in 2008. Oman remains India's closest defence partner in Gulf region. India has secured access to Oman's Port of Duqm for military use and logistical support. 	
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4.5. PLACES IN NEWS



S. No.	Place	Detailed Map
1.	<p>Black Sea</p> <p>Russia fired warning shots at British destroyer in Black Sea.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is connected to the Atlantic Ocean via the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas and various straits. Bosporus strait connects it to the Sea of Marmara, and strait of the Dardanelles connects it to the Aegean Sea region of the Mediterranean. To the north, it is connected to the Ssea of Azov by the Kerch Strait. 	

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<p>2.</p>	<p>Lebanon (Capital: Beirut) Recently, Israel shot artillery fire in retaliation to Iranian-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah firing of rockets from Lebanon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon said the situation was very serious and urged all parties to cease fire. Lebanon (Capital: Beirut) is a mountainous nation in the Levant, located on eastern coastline of Mediterranean Sea. 	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Dubai (UAE) Twice the height of London Eye, Dubai will open the world's largest and tallest observation wheel 'Ain Dubai' with height of 250 metres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situated in the Southeast of the Arabian Peninsula, Dubai is one among the seven emirates which are part of United Arab Emirates (UAE). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dubai is home to number of modern day construction marvels like Burj Khalifa (World's tallest skyscraper). 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Yemen (Capital: Sanaa) Recently, the Houthi rebels attacked Yemen's largest airbase (Al-Anad air base).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yemen is a desert country on Southern tip of Arabian Peninsula, with Red Sea and Bab-el-Mandeb on its west and land borders with Saudi Arabia and Oman. Since 2015, the nation is going through civil war with fight between Saudi-backed Government and Iran-backed Houthi rebels, including UAE-backed anti-Houthi forces and the Southern Transitional Council. Yemen is home to Old walled City of Shibam, a UNESCO WHS and called as 'the Manhattan of the desert' because of its urban planning. 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Syria (Capital: Damascus) Recently, Israel launched air strikes over Syria to target the Iran-backed rebels operating from its territory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major Water Bodies- Syria is situated at the eastern end of Mediterranean Sea. Euphrates River (originating in the mountains of Turkey) is the main River of Syria with Balikh and Khabur as its main tributaries. Bordering Countries- Turkey (in North), Iraq (in east), Jordan (in South) and Israel and Lebanon (in West). 	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Gulf of Oman Iran has opened its first oil terminal in the Gulf of Oman to allow Iranian tankers to avoid using the strategically vulnerable Strait of Hormuz.</p>	

<p>7.</p>	<p>Kuwait (Capital: Kuwait city) A United Nations panel paid out USD 600 million to Kuwait's national oil company as compensation for Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait that resulted in the US-led Gulf War (1990-91).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kuwait is a founding member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and a major non-NATO ally to the United States. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GCC 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. ○ It was established in 1981 to discuss cooperation and regional affairs. • Kuwait currently has the largest US military presence in the Middle East. 	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Nagorno-Karabakh Region Recently, the decades old conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh region has resurfaced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nagorno-Karabakh (also known as Artsakh) is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan, but most of the region is controlled by Armenian separatists. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nagorno-Karabakh is a breakaway region in South Caucasus/Transcaucasia (strategically important mountainous region in south-east Europe). 	

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5. AMERICAN CONTINENT

5.1. INDIA-US

Why in news?

India-US renew Global Development Partnership Deal for 5 Years.

Global development partnership agreement

- Global development partnership agreement provides for jointly **offering assistance to their partner countries**.
 - Both sides signed amendment to the **Statement of Guiding Principles (SGP) on Triangular Cooperation** for Global Development, extending the **pact's validity up to 2026**.
 - **Feed The Future India Triangular Training Program (FTF ITT) for Africa** is an example of a project under this.
 - The SGP agreement **was initially signed in 2014** and renewed in 2019 till 2021.
- **Triangular cooperation**
 - Triangular cooperation **involves three actors (see infographic), two from the South (Facilitating and Beneficiary partner) and one from the North (pivotal partner)**. The latter can also be an international multilateral organization.
 - The **division of “North” and “South” is used to refer to the social, economic and political differences** that exist between developed countries (North) and developing countries (South).
- **India's other triangular Cooperation examples**
 - **India-Japan Cooperation: Asia–Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)**.
 - The **India–Triangular** in the form of project called **“Supporting India’s Trade Preferences for Africa” (SITA)**, funded by the DFID (UK’s Department for International Development).



Related News

India and USA sign project agreement for Air-launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV)

- The Project Agreement for ALUAV is under the umbrella **Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)**.
 - **Under DTTI**, there are 2 categories of projects, **one, related to industry-to-industry projects facilitated by export licenses and second done via Project Agreements (PA)**.
 - The **PA for ALUAV is a project of second category undertaken under Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation (RDT&E) Agreement** which was first signed in January 2006 and renewed in January 2015.
- **India-US defence relationship**
 - In 2016, the United States designated India as a **Major Defense Partner** which was elevated to **Strategic Trade Authorization Tier 1 status in 2018**.
 - **2+2 dialogue** between the defence and foreign ministers.
 - **India has signed four foundational defence agreement of USA**.
 - ✓ **General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)** in 2002 on military information exchange.
 - ✓ **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)** in 2016 to use each other’s military base.
 - ✓ **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)** in 2018 for interoperability between the two militaries and sale of high-end technology to India.
 - ✓ **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)** in 2020 to share high-end military technology, logistics and geospatial maps.

India and USA Agree on a Transitional Approach on Equalisation Levy (EL) or digital tax

- Settlement is broadly **on the lines of one reached under Unilateral Measures Compromise** among UK, Austria, France, Italy and Spain with US.
- EL was introduced in 2016 **to tax foreign firms with no permanent establishments in India** (Ex Amazon, Google etc).
 - Later **US conducted investigation into such digital taxes** adopted by Austria, India, Italy, UK etc **stating these discriminated against US digital companies**.
- In October 2021, **136 countries, including India, agreed to enforce a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15%**, as well as an equitable system of taxing profits of big companies in markets where they are earned.
 - **Deal requires countries to remove all digital services tax** and other similar unilateral measures.

- Proposed solution of **global tax deal** consists of **two components: Pillar One**, which is about reallocation of an additional share of profit to the market jurisdictions and **Pillar Two**, consisting of minimum tax and subject to tax rules.
- As per India-US pact, **India will continue to impose EL till March 31, 2024**, or till the implementation of Pillar 1 whichever is earlier.

5.2. PLACES IN NEWS

AMERICAS



S. No.	Place	Detailed Map
<p>1.</p>	<p>Central America/Caribbean Islands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominica: A court in Dominica has ‘restrained’ authorities from deporting fugitive Indian businessman Mehul Choksi from the Caribbean island country until further orders. • Haiti: Jovenel Moïse, President of Haiti assassinated. • Cuba: Recently, it developed the Soberana 2 vaccine, world’s first conjugate vaccine combining the virus’s receptor-binding domain with a deactivated form of tetanus. • Barbados: Barbados became the world’s newest republic after it removed Queen Elizabeth II as the head of the state. • It is surrounded by coral reefs, Mount Hillaby is the highest point. • Nicaragua: Recently, Nicaragua has cut its diplomatic ties with Taiwan and officially recognized only one China with the People’s Republic of China as its only legitimate government. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is the largest Central American country and Lake Nicaragua is the largest lake of Central America. • Honduras : Xiomara Castro was sworn in as the first woman President of Honduras. • St. Vincent & The Grenadines: India’s Prime Minister (PM) condemned an attack on his St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ counterpart, who was injured at a protest against a proposed vaccine mandate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ St Vincent and the Grenadines is a chain of 32 islands in the southern Caribbean. 	
<p>2.</p>	<p>Chile (Capital: Santiago) Gabriel Boric became Chile’s youngest ever president.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the longest and narrowest country in the world. 	

6. EUROPE

6.1. INDIA-UK RELATIONS

Why in News?

India-UK virtual summit was held recently.

More on News

- During the summit, ‘Roadmap 2030’ was adopted to **elevate bilateral ties to a ‘Comprehensive Strategic Partnership’**.
 - Roadmap will pave the way for a deeper and **stronger engagement** over the next ten years in the **key areas of people-to-people contacts, trade and economy, defence and security, climate action and health**.
 - Earlier, in 2004, India and the United Kingdom upgraded their bilateral relationship to that of **Strategic Partnership**.

Roadmap 2030				
Connecting countries and people	Trade and Prosperity	Defence and Security	Climate	Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen cooperation and coordination at multilateral fora such as G-20, WTO etc. • Implement the comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership • Explore partnership around the future of work. • Implement ‘India-UK Together’ (‘SAATH-SAATH’ in Hindi) to celebrate India’s 75th anniversary of Independence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching an Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP), which includes intent to negotiate a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement. • Increase exchanges and cooperation in the services sector such as IT and digital tech, healthcare etc. • Encourage UK companies to invest in India’s manufacturing sector taking advantage of the Production Linked Incentive Scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand cooperation under the Defence and International Security Partnership (DISP) agreed in 2015. • Promote freedom of navigation and open access, and improve maritime cooperation through a partnership in the Western Indian Ocean. • Promote international security and stability in cyberspace including through bilateral cooperation on critical national infrastructure, healthcare and vaccines etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch a global Green Grids Initiative at COP26, to include a political declaration by national leaders and increased technical, financial and research cooperation to help deliver India’s vision of One Sun One World One Grid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the India-UK partnership on Vaccines, Therapeutics and Diagnostics and expand the UK-India Vaccines Hub to develop distribution policy, clinical trials, regulation, research and innovation related to Covid-19, helping guarantee equitable global supply by April 2022.

Possibility of India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

- While announcing the Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP) in the virtual summit, **UK government said that Britain and India will begin formal free trade deal talks later this year**.
- India had earlier been negotiating a **broad-based trade and investment agreement (BTIA) with the UK as part of the EU**.
- Although talks on India-EU BTIA started in 2007, it has been **stuck over growing differences regarding greater market access** sought by both sides for merchandise exports.

6.2. INDIA-EURASIA

Why in news?

After **India’s success in bringing political and institutional traction towards Indo-Pacific** as part of its maritime geopolitics, it is felt that **India should recalibrate its continental strategy towards Eurasia**.

About Eurasian Region

- **Geographically represented by Eurasian Plate**, covering most of Europe and Asia, there is a **lack of an agreed international understanding** of what constitutes the region.
 - E.g. For Russia, erstwhile Soviet Union territory represents Eurasia while others look at its parts like Central Asia, Greater Middle East etc.
- **Significance of Eurasia for India**
 - Region is richly endowed with **commodities such as crude oil, natural gas, cotton, gold, copper, aluminium, and iron.**
 - It is strategically positioned as an **access point between Europe and Asia.**
 - Apart from **checking Chinese influence**, it will help India to **overcome hostile alliances** in the region (e.g. Turkey-Pakistan alliance).
- **Indian strategy towards Eurasia should include**
 - **Greater engagement with both European Union and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.**
 - **Intensifying Eurasian security dialogue with Russia.**
 - **Collaboration with Iran and Arabia** to overcome geographic disconnect and for a greater role in the future of Afghanistan, Central Asia and Gulf region.



6.3. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

<p>Global Gateway</p> <p>It is European Union (EU's) €300 billion infrastructure fund plan to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan promises to promote high social, environmental, fiscal and labour standards. • Other initiatives for Infrastructure development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Build Back Better World (B3W) initiative: launched during the G-7 meet, is a values-driven and transparent infrastructure partnership to help narrow USD 40+ trillion infrastructure needs in the developing world. ○ Asia-Africa Growth Corridor: an Indian-Japanese collaborative vision regarding development, connectivity and cooperation between Asia and Africa. 	<p>A map of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) routes. A legend indicates that blue lines represent the 'Overland route of Belt and Road Initiative' and pink lines represent the 'Maritime route of Belt and Road Initiative'. The map shows routes connecting major cities and regions across Europe, Asia, and Africa. Key locations marked include Rotterdam, Venice, Athens, Istanbul, Moscow, Beijing, Dalian, Fuzhou, Singapore, Colombo, Gwadar, Dhaka, and Lamu. The Indian Ocean and Atlantic Ocean are also labeled.</p>
<p>Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)</p>	<p>Vice President of India addressed the first plenary Session of the 13th ASEM Summit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEM is an informal forum for dialogue and cooperation, bringing together 53 partners from across Europe and Asia. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ASEM represents around 62.3% of the world's population, 57.2% of the global GDP and almost 60% of the world's trade. • Its main purpose is to provide a platform for fostering political dialogue, strengthening economic cooperation and tackling together global challenges.

6.4. PLACES IN NEWS



S. No.	Place	Detailed Map
1.	<p>Albania (Capital: Tirana)</p> <p>The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) recently launched the joint military exercises in Albania called the DEFENDER-Europe 21.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albania is located in the western part of the Balkan Peninsula on the Strait of Otranto, the southern entrance to the Adriatic Sea. 	
2.	<p>Belarus (Capital: Minsk)</p> <p>UK has joined US and other countries in imposing fresh sanctions on Belarus after the detention of an opposition journalist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Until it became independent in 1991, Belarus, formerly known as Belorussia or White Russia. The highest point is Dzyarzhynskaya Hill. Dnieper river flows across Belarus from north to south on its way to the Black Sea. 	

<p>3.</p>	<p>Georgia (Capital: Tbilisi) Recently, India handed over 400 years old relics of Queen Ketevanto Georgia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Queen Ketevan relics were brought to India by Portuguese missionaries at St. Augustine Church in Old Goa in 1627. Georgia is located at the eastern end of the Black Sea on the southern flanks of the main crest of the Greater Caucasus Mountains. Inguri, Rioni, and Kodori are the major rivers. 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Port of Brest, France As part of the ongoing Overseas Deployment, INS Tabar entered the Port of Brest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It occupies the slopes of two hills divided by the Penfeld River. it is protected from the sea by the Quélern Peninsula. 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Lithuania (Capital: Vilnius) The European Union launched action against China at the World Trade Organization (WTO) for targeting Lithuania over its stance on Taiwan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lithuania earlier quit China's 17+1 cooperation forum with central and eastern Europe. Neman River is the major river. A distinctive feature of the Lithuanian landscape is the presence of about 3,000 lakes, mostly in the east and southeast. 	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Slovenia (Capital: Ljubljana) Recently, India-Slovenia held 8th Foreign Office Consultations virtually on bilateral relations, regional and multilateral developments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slovenia is mostly mountainous and forested and Dinaric Alps and Julian Alps traverses the country. Danube River is the major river. 	

<p>7.</p>	<p>Northern Ireland (Capital: Belfast) European Union has rejected Britain's demand for a new post Brexit deal on Northern Ireland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Ireland occupies about one-sixth of the island of Ireland and is separated on the east from Scotland (UK), by the North Channel, The Irish Sea separates Northern Ireland from England and Wales on the east and southeast, respectively. Antrim mountains, Mourne Mountains and Sperrin Mountains are the prominent mountain ranges. River Bann, River Blackwater and River Lagan are the major rivers. 	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Kosovo, (Capital: Pristina) Recently, India and Serbia reaffirmed each other's position on territorial integrity and sovereignty over Kashmir and Kosovo.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kosovo is part of Serbia (Capital: Belgrade), the successor of Yugoslavia and co-founder of the Non-Aligned Movement In 2008, Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia unilaterally, largely recognised by USA and major EU nations only as a country. Dominated by people Albanian ethnicity. 	

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7. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION/ INSTITUTIONS

7.1. UNITED NATIONS

Why in news?

United Nations (UN) Day was celebrated on the 24th October where **Prime Minister pointed out India's contributions** to the UN in various fields.

India and UN

- **UN is an international organization**, founded in 1945, whose primary role is **to maintain world peace and security. India is a founding member** of UN.
- **India's contributions and recent developments:**

Fight against colonization and apartheid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India was the co-sponsor of Declaration on Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. • India was the first country to raise Apartheid issue at UN. • India was among the earliest signatories of Convention on Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination.
Peacekeeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has deployed more than a quarter of a million troops over the years in as many as 49 UN Peacekeeping Missions. • India was the first country to deploy an all-women contingent for Formed Police Unit to the UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia. • Recently, India provided 2,00,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines for UN Peacekeeping personnel worldwide. • About UN Peacekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peacekeeping operations get their mandates from UN Security Council. ○ Their troops and police are contributed by Members States ○ They are guided by three basic principles: Consent of the parties; Impartiality and Non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ India in collaboration with UN launched UNITE Aware Platform, a situational awareness software programme that will utilise modern surveillance technology for real time threat assessments to peacekeepers.
Development and Economic issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India was instrumental in the setting up of UNCTAD in 1964 for promoting trade and development. • India has emphasized the need for enhanced flows of official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries.
Terrorism/Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India took the initiative to pilot a draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. • India played an active role in drafting the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. • India was re-elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the 2022-24 term. • The UNHRC consists of 47 Member States elected directly and individually by secret ballot by the majority of the members of the General Assembly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The members of the Council shall serve for a period of three years and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election after two consecutive terms.
Reform & Restructuring of UN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India is collaborating with G-4 (India, Brazil Germany and Japan) and L.69 (Group of like-minded countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America) on reform and expansion of the UN Security Council.

7.1.1. UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)

Why in news?

India takes over first United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Presidency for its **2021-22 tenure**.

More on news

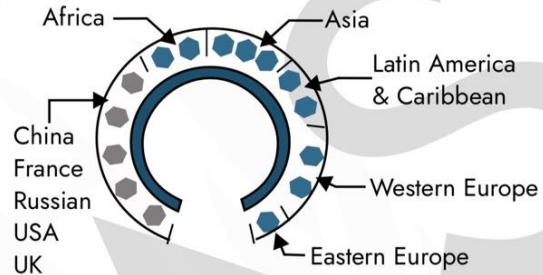
- India's two-year tenure as a non-permanent member began on January 1, 2021 (This is the 8th tenure as non-permanent member in the UNSC).
 - The **presidency of UNSC rotates on a monthly basis among each of the 15 members**, following the English alphabetical order of the Member States names.
- As president, **India will decide the agenda whose resolutions and directives are binding on all member states**.
 - India has set its agenda to hold high-level meetings on **three priority areas: maritime security, counter-terrorism, and peacekeeping**.
 - Also expects to **deploy a mobile app-UNITE AWARE-** that will provide terrain information and "improve situational awareness" for peacekeepers.

UN Security Council members

5 Permanent Members (having Veto Powers)



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.

- ▶ 5 from African and Asian States
- ▶ 2 from Latin America States
- ▶ 1 from Eastern Europe States
- ▶ 2 from Western Europe and other States

About UNSC

- UNSC is one of the **principal organs of the United Nations with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security**.
 - Other principal organs are **General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat**.
- It is the **only UN organ that has a power to make decisions that member states are obligated to implement**.
- India has been **campaigning for a permanent seat at the UNSC along with Germany, Japan and Brazil (known as G4)**.
 - Comprising countries like **Italy, Pakistan, Mexico and Egypt, the Coffee Club has opposed the permanent membership bid of India, Japan, Germany and Brazil**.

Related news

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted the India-led UNSC Resolution 2593

- UNSC Resolution 2593 is a **resolution** on Afghanistan (adopted during India's presidency of the UNSC) to guide the **global approach** to be adopted for addressing the Afghanistan Crisis.
 - It demands **accountability from Taliban** so that its territory is not used for terrorism or attack on any other country.
 - It also calls for an **inclusive government** through a **negotiated political settlement**, including **participation of minorities and women**.
- The **G20 Extraordinary Summit on Afghanistan** will seek to further build upon it.

UNSC resolution 2615

- United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has unanimously passed a resolution to **facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid** to Afghanistan.
- About resolution 2615**
 - It carved out an exemption for **humanitarian assistance** from sanctions imposed **under resolutions 2255 and 1988**, concerning individuals and entities associated **with the Taliban**.
 - The resolution mandates a **review of the carveout** every six months.

7.2. G20

Why in news?

Recently, India joined the G20 'Troika' and with this India will hold the presidency of the G20 from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023.

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 (known as **G20 Troika**).
 - Troika refers to the **top grouping within the G20 that consists of the current, previous and the incoming presidencies-** Indonesia, Italy and India.
 - As a Troika member, India will work closely with Indonesia and Italy to ensure consistency and continuity of the G20's agenda.
- **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.

7.3. WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO)

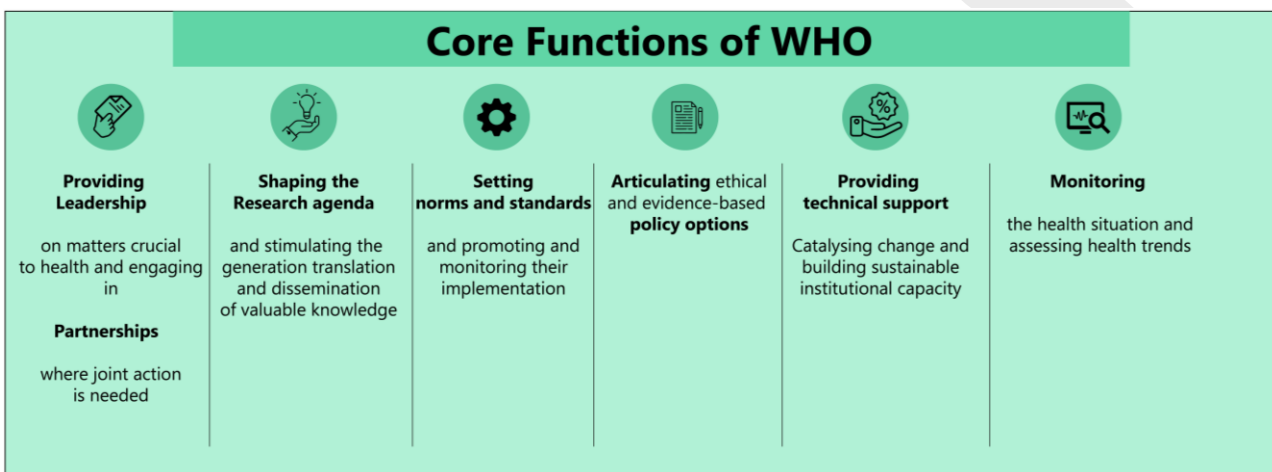
Why in news?

The USA, is resisting the proposed sustainable financing model by WHO.

Current financing model of WHO

- WHO budget largely consists of two funding types, namely **assessed contributions and voluntary contributions**.
- WHO’s work was **previously funded entirely by assessed contributions** from Member States.
- By 1990, **voluntary contributions** had increased to 54% of total funds, and they **now make up over 80% of WHO’s total income**.
- While WHO’s budget has increased substantially – from US\$ 1.4 billion for 1990–1991 to US\$ 5.8 billion for 2020–2021 – **assessed contributions have remained more or less static** at about US\$ 1 billion.

About the proposed Sustainable Financing Model
 A proposal by the WHO's working group on sustainable financing calls for members' mandatory contributions to rise gradually to account for 50 per cent of agency's core budget by 2028, from less than 20 per cent now.



7.4. SUSPENSION/EXPULSION OF COUNTRIES FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Why in news?

Ever since the Taliban took over Afghanistan, questions are being raised over the membership of Afghanistan in various International Organisations.

International Law on expulsion or suspension of member countries from International Organisations (IOs)

On this issue, IOs are broadly divided into two categories:

IOs that explicitly provide for expulsion or suspension of member countries	IOs do not contain any provision on expulsion or suspension of its member countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For instance, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Article 6 of the UN Charter allows the UN General Assembly to expel a country, on the recommendation of the UN Security Council, if the country has persistently violated the principles reflected in the UN Charter. ○ Article 5 of the UN Charter allows for the suspension of a country from UN membership. ○ Article XXVI (2) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) envisages suspension and expulsion of a member country if it fails to meet its obligations under the IMF Articles. In the IMF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For such IOs , there is no inherent right in the organisation to expel or suspend a member state. SAARC fall under this category. • However, such IOs have an implied power to suspend or expel countries based on the doctrine laid down by the International Court of Justice in the Reparation for Injuries Case. • As per the doctrine, there are three situations when a country can be expelled or suspended from the IO: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the regime in a country changes from democratic to anti-democratic. For instance, the African Union suspended Mali and Niger in 2010 after a deadly coup. ○ If there are human rights violations. For instance, the Commonwealth of Nations suspended Fiji in 2009 for

terminology, this is called ‘ compulsory withdrawal ’.	human rights violations such as restrictions on free speech, assembly, and arbitrary arrests. ○ If the country commits an act of armed aggression .
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7.5. SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION (SCO)

Why in news?

21st meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Key Highlight of the meet

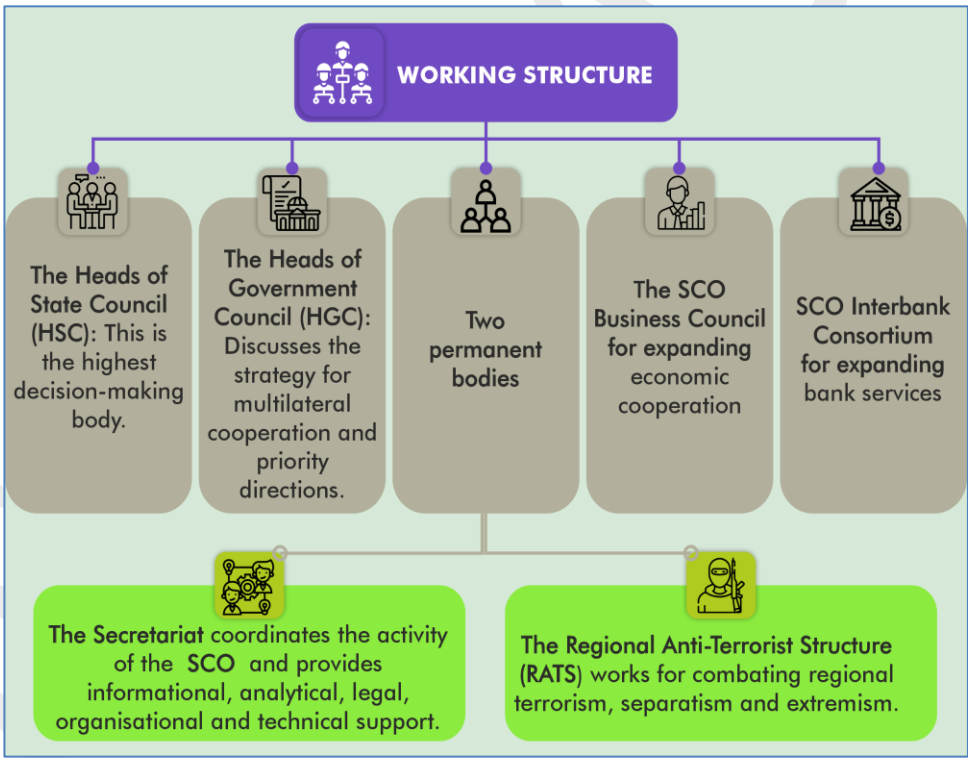
- **Iran joined as a permanent SCO member** with Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Qatar as new dialogue partners of SCO.
- **SCO Summit was followed by an Outreach session on Afghanistan** between SCO and the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) where **India highlighted the problems caused by growing radicalization and extremism in the broader SCO region.**

Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

- The CSTO is a Russia-led **military alliance that promotes the collective defence** of any member that comes under external aggression.
 - CSTO **originates from Collective Security Treaty** signed in 1992 by Russia and few Central Asian states.
 - CSTO is **based on the principle of collective defense** just like NATO.
- Current CSTO members are **Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan.**

About the SCO

- It is a **permanent intergovernmental political, economic, and military organization** founded in Shanghai in 2001 (The precursor group **Shanghai 5** included: China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan).
- **Regional development and security issues** (terrorism, ethnic separatism, and religious extremism) are its main focus.
- 4 of SCO’s members (India, Russia, China and Pakistan) are **nuclear powers** and 2 (Russia and China) are **permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC)**.
- SCO is considered a counterweight to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).



- **Shanghai 5:** China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan.
- **Working language:** Russian and Mandarin.
- SCO accounts for 24% of the World GDP and 43% of the Global Population.
- **“Shanghai Spirit”** i.e. mutual trust, Mutual benefit, Equality, Consultation, Respect for cultural diversity and Pursuit of common development underpins the working of the SCO.
- India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.

Member States



7.6. ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

Why in news?

India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022 was approved in 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) meeting, an annual meeting of Telecom Ministers of 10 ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries.

About ASEAN

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a regional organization which was **established to promote political and social stability** amid rising tensions among the Asia-Pacific’s post-colonial states.
- It was **established in 1967** with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by its founding fathers.

ASEAN COUNTRIES



India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan work plan includes:

- System for **combating use of stolen and counterfeit mobile handsets**,
- **WiFi Access network interface** for nationwide public internet,
- **Capacity building and knowledge sharing** in emerging areas in the field of Information and Communication Technologies.

- Founding Fathers of ASEAN are: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- **India became a Sectoral Partner of ASEAN in 1992.**
- The **motto of ASEAN** is “One Vision, One Identity, One Community”.
- **ASEAN Secretariat** is in Indonesia, Jakarta.
- ASEAN is the **3rd largest market in the world** – larger than EU and North American markets and **6th largest economy in the world**, 3rd in Asia.
- **ASEAN has declared itself as a nuclear weapon free zone.**

7.7. 13TH BRICS SUMMIT

Why in news?

Recently, 13th BRICS Summit held under India’s Chairmanship.

More on news

- The theme of the Summit was **BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus.**
 - **These four Cs** are in a way the **fundamental principles of BRICS partnership.**
- **Key takeaways:**
 - On post-Covid global recovery, PM called for enhanced BRICS cooperation under **motto of 'Build-back Resiliently, Innovatively, Credibly and Sustainably'**.
 - Adopted '**New Delhi Declaration**' that calls for
 - Settling Afghan situation via peaceful means.
 - **Reforms of principal organs of United Nations** including that of UN Security Council (UNSC).
 - BRICS has taken a collective **position on 'Strengthening and Reforming Multilateral Systems'**.
 - Addressing **humanitarian situations and to uphold human rights**, including those of women, children and minorities.
 - Accelerate implementation of **Action Plan on Counter-Terrorism.**
 - **Agreement on space agencies and remote-sensing satellites** will enhance research capabilities in global climate change, disaster management, prevention of food and water scarcity etc.
 - Action plan 2021-2024 for **agriculture cooperation adopted.**

About BRICS

- BRICS is a **group of major emerging economies comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.**
- BRICS countries comprise:
 - **41% of the world population,**
 - **24% of the world GDP**
 - **over 16% share in world trade.**
- BRICS countries **deliberate on important issues under the three pillars**
 - **political and security,**
 - **economic and financial**
 - **cultural and people to people exchanges.**
- **Two important institutions of BRICS:**
 - **New Development Bank** (finances infrastructure and renewable energy projects in the BRICS countries).
 - **Contingent Reserve Arrangement** (a financial stability mechanism for countries affected by crises in their balance of payments).
- **On January 1, 2022, China officially took over the BRICS chairmanship,** and will host the 14th BRICS Summit.

Related news

First BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 was held virtually.

- **About Sherpas:**
 - A Sherpa is a **personal representative** of the leader of a member country at an international Summit such as the G8, G20 etc.
 - ✓ The term is derived from the Nepalese Sherpa people, who serve as guides for mountaineers in the Himalayas.
 - They **coordinate the agenda, seek consensus, and participate in a series of pre-Summit consultations** to help negotiate their leaders’ positions.

- There is only one Sherpa per Summit for each member country.
- **12th Meeting of BRICS S&T Steering Committee was hosted by India recently.**
- **India proposed STI-led BRICS Innovation Cooperation Action Plan (2021-24) to facilitate sharing of experiences of each other's innovation ecosystem** in 10 thematic areas including anti-microbial resistance and big data analytics.

7.7.1. BRICS NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK

Why in News?

Recently, the India has recently welcomed Egypt as the fourth new member of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB). Bangladesh, UAE, and Uruguay have also joined in September 2021.

More about BRICS NDB

- The New Development Bank (NDB) is a **Multilateral Development Institution (MDI)** established by BRICS countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa during the **6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (2014)**.
- **The Bank's membership is open to members of the United Nations.**
- **Purpose:** With an **authorized capital of US\$ 100 billion**, NDB supports public and private infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS nations, and other emerging and developing economies
- **Governance Structure:** It functions through a Board of Governors, a Board of Directors, a President and Vice-Presidents, with the President being elected from one of the founding members on a rotational basis.



Major Global and Regional MDIs with Indian Membership				
Name of MDI	Year of Formation	Headquarter	Total Member	Type of Financing
World Bank Group *	IBRD-1944, IFC-1956, IDA-1960 MIGA-1988	Washington D.C., USA	IBRD-189, IFC-185 & IDA-173 MIGA-182	Concessional and Non-concessional loans, equity investments, Grants and loan guarantees with some differences within the sub-institutions.
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	1944	Washington D.C., USA	190	Mainly Policy-based loans with financing in exchange of particular policy reform like Privatization, Agricultural or electricity policy reforms.
African Development Bank Group (AFDB)	AFDB-1964, African Development Fund-1972	Abidjan (Ivory Coast)	81	Non-concessional and concessional loans, equity investments, and loan guarantees Grants by African Development Fund.
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	ADB-1966, Asian Development Fund-1973	Mandaluyong of Metro Manila (Philippines)	68	Non-concessional and concessional loans, equity investments, and loan guarantees Grants by Asian Development Fund.
New Development Bank	2014	Shanghai, China	** 8 (after latest expansion)	Guarantees, syndicated loans with private investors, equity investments, project bonds and co-financing arrangements with other MDIs.
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank	2016	Beijing, China	103	Loans, investing in the equity capital of an enterprise, and guaranteeing with open option of underwriting.

*The World Bank Group includes the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), The International Development Association (IDA), The International Finance Corporation (IFC), The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). The term World Bank is collectively referred for IBRD and IDA.

Note that India is not part of ICSID.

**Please note that UAE and Uruguay are prospective members and will officially become a member country once they deposit their instrument of accession.

7.8. SAARC

Why in news?

Recently, **SAARC meeting was cancelled** as member states were unable to agree upon the participation of Afghanistan.

About SAARC

- The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established with the signing of the **SAARC Charter** in Dhaka 1985.
- At the Dhaka meeting, the member countries also launched the **Integrated Program of Action**.
 - It outlined the five areas of cooperation between SAARC countries, namely,
 - Agriculture;
 - Rural development;
 - Telecommunications;
 - Meteorology; and
 - Health and population activities.
- The **Headquarters and Secretariat** of the Association are at **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
- The organisation is **based on the principles** of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and mutual benefit.
- Afghanistan became the newest member of SAARC** at the 13th annual summit in 2005.
- Last SAARC summit was held in 2014** (Kathmandu) and subsequent summits could not be held because of the strained relations between India and Pakistan.
- In 2020, a \$10 mn **COVID 19 Emergency Fund** was initiated by SAARC leaders to combat the pandemic.

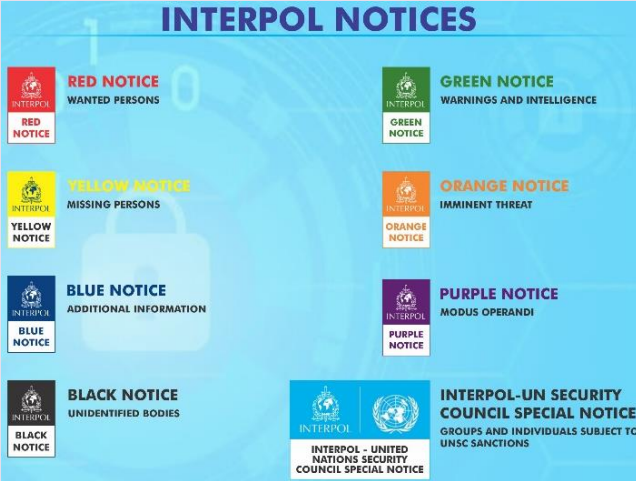
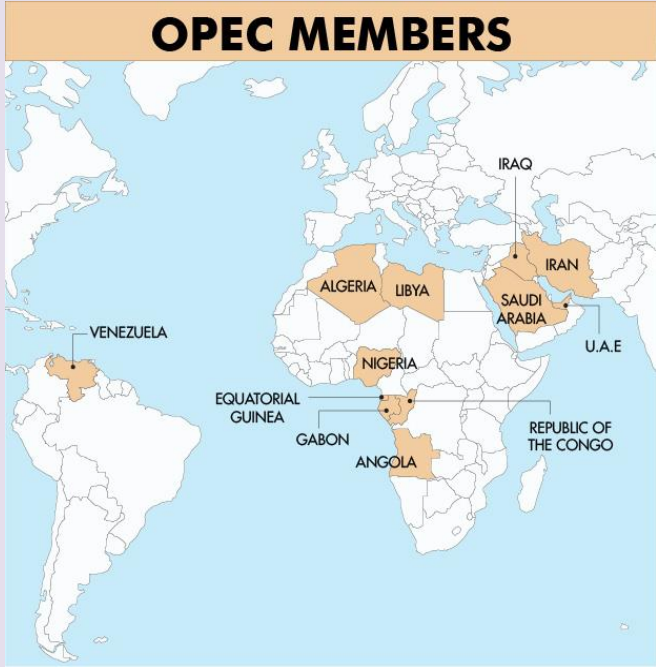


SAARC Specialized Bodies include

- SAARC Development Fund (SDF):** Its primary objective is funding of project-based collaboration in social sectors such as poverty alleviation, development, etc.
- South Asian University** is an international university, located in India. Degrees and Certificates awarded by the SAU are at par with the respective Degrees and Certificates awarded by the National Universities/Institutions.
- South Asian Regional Standards Organization** was established to achieve and enhance coordination and cooperation among SAARC member states and is aimed to develop harmonized Standards for the region to facilitate intra-regional trade and to have access in the global market.

7.9. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

International Law Commission (ILC)	<p>Indian professor, Professor Bimal Patel(Member of National Security Advisory Board of India) has been elected to the International Law Commission for a five-year term starting January 1, 2023.</p> <p>About ILC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A United Nations body established by the General Assembly, in 1947 for promotion of the progressive development of international law and its codification. It concerns itself primarily with public international law, but is not precluded from entering the field of private international law. It consists of thirty-four members who are persons of recognized competence in international law.
International Court of Justice (ICJ)	<p>The Pakistan government pushed through a bill to help Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav appeal against the death sentence given to him by a military court.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bill has been brought to give effect to the International Court of Justice (ICJ)'s 2019 judgement. <p>About ICJ, Hague</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the main judicial organ of the UN, est in 1945.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York. It is composed of 15 judges elected to nine-year terms of office. The judgment is final, binding on the parties to a case and without appeal.
<p>International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)</p>	<p>Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) special director Praveen Sinha was elected the delegate for Asia in the executive committee of INTERPOL.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> INTERPOL is an intergovernmental organization that helps coordinate the police force of 195 member countries. It is headquartered in Lyon, France. Each of the member countries hosts an INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB). CBI is designated as the NCB of India. 
<p>OPEC and OPEC+</p>	<p>Recent talks between United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC+) Plus group on extending global pact to cut oil production beyond April 2022 could not reach a consensus.</p> <p>In the backdrop of falling oil prices in 2020 due to COVID 19 pandemic, OPEC+ group in April 2020, entered into a two-year Output Pact (New Production Agreement) for steep cuts in crude production for better price discovery.</p> <p>About OPEC and OPEC+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPEC (HQ- Vienna) is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization, created at the Baghdad Conference, 1960. Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To coordinate and unify petroleum policies among member countries. To secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers. To ensure an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations and a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry. The 10 non-OPEC countries which export crude oil are termed as OPEC Plus(+) countries. These include Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It came into existence to counteract other nations' capacity to produce oil, which could limit OPEC's ability to control supply and price. 
<p>Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former RBI governor Urjit Patel was appointed vice-president of the AIIB. AIIB is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was established in 2015 and is headquartered in Beijing India is a founding member and second largest shareholder in AIIB with 7.6% voting shares while China holds 26.5 % voting shares being the largest. <p>AIIB has approved more loans for India (28 projects amounting to \$6.7 billion) than any other member.</p>
<p>Reporters Without Borders (RSF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based in Paris, it is one of the world's leading NGOs in the defense and promotion of freedom of information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has consultative status with United Nations, UNESCO and Council of Europe. It publishes annually the World Press Freedom Index.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, RSF has brought out the following findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently 488 media professionals imprisoned around the world (highest in 25 Years). By contrast, the number killed this year was the lowest, due to relative stabilisation of conflicts in the West Asia. Most dangerous countries for media professionals are Mexico, Afghanistan, Yemen and India.
Internet Governance Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India hosted the forum for the first time. Theme of the events is 'Inclusive Internet for Digital India' IGF is an UN-based forum for Internet Governance policy discussion. It brings together representatives from various groups, considering all at par to discuss public policy issues related to Internet. It reflects India's growing influence on international policy formulation around internet.

“ The Secret To Getting Ahead Is Getting Started ”

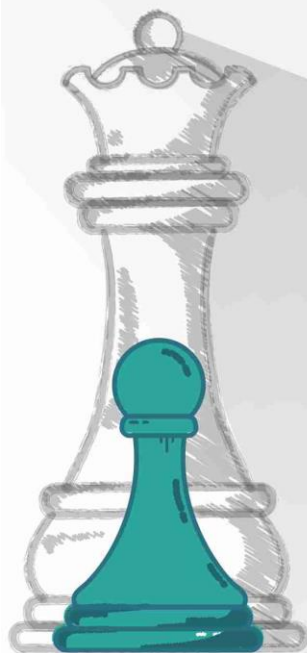
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8. ISSUES RELATED TO SECURITY

8.1. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Why in news?

According to recently released **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) 2021 report**, the overall number of nuclear warheads in global military stockpiles now appears to be increasing.

What is Nuclear Disarmament?

- Nuclear disarmament is the act of **reducing or eliminating nuclear weapons**. It aims towards achieving a state where nuclear weapons are eliminated. The term **denuclearization** is also used to describe the process leading to complete nuclear disarmament.
- UN sought to eliminate nuclear weapons in the first resolution adopted by UN General Assembly in 1946.

Key highlights of the report

- Indian nuclear warheads** increased from 150 at the start of 2020 to 156 at the start of 2021.
- Pakistan and China's nuclear warheads** have also increased.
- Russia and the U.S.** together possessed over 90% of global nuclear weapons.

These increasing numbers of nuclear warheads highlights a **worrisome sign for Nuclear Disarmament** as it indicates that the declining trend of global nuclear arsenals since the end of the Cold War has stalled.

Key Treaties for Nuclear Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation	Mandate of the treaty
Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), 1963	It prohibits testing of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere, in outer space, under water, or in any area within a state's territory that would cause radioactive fallout outside the state's territory.
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT), 1970	It seeks to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons , to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to move towards nuclear disarmament. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States.
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)	It is an international treaty that bans all nuclear explosions in all environments. It opened for signature in 1996 but has not yet entered into force.
Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons (TPNW)	It is a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It includes a comprehensive set of prohibitions on participating in any nuclear weapon activities which include undertakings to develop, test, produce, acquire, possess, stockpile, use or threaten to use nuclear weapons. It entered into force recently in 2020.

THE NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME

NON-PROLIFERATION

Obliging non-nuclear weapons states to never acquire them and accept full-scope safeguards.

DISARMAMENT

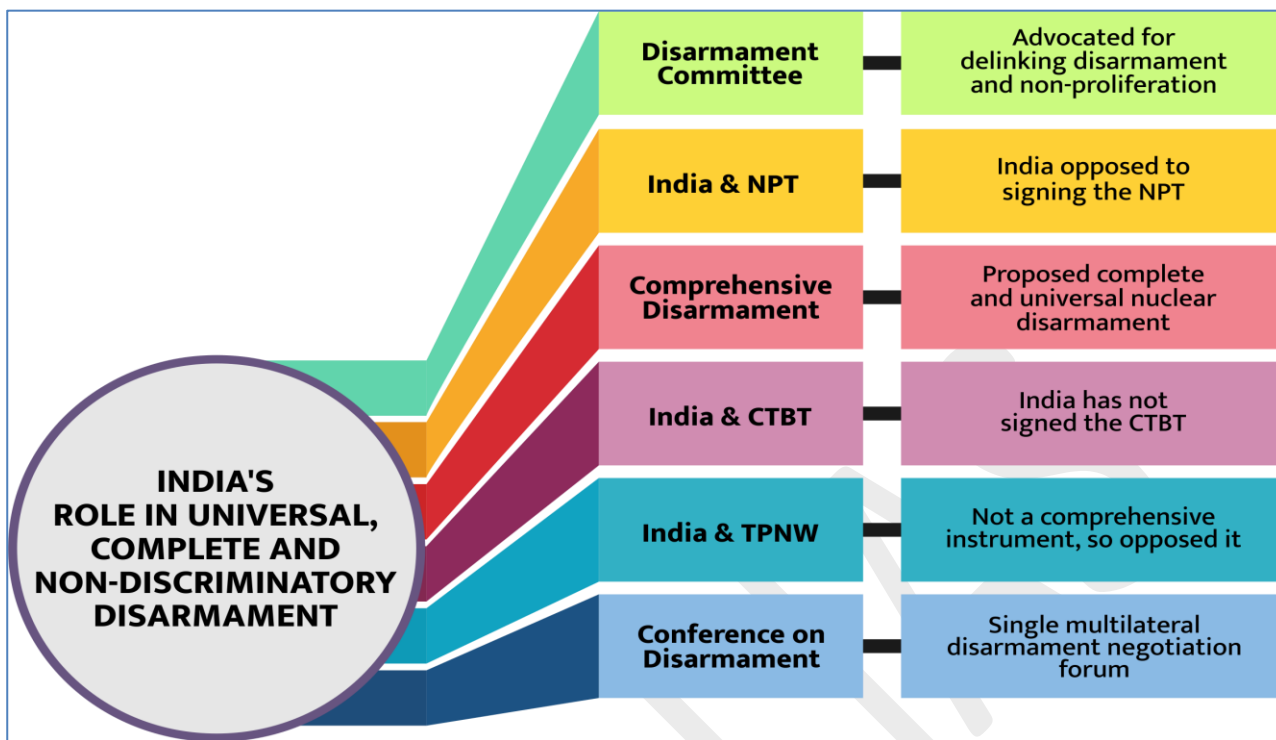
Requiring the five countries with nuclear weapons (the U.S., China, France, the Soviet Union, and the U.K.) to negotiate the reduction and eventual elimination of their nuclear weapons.

PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

Guaranteeing non-nuclear weapons states full access to peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology

India's role in global nuclear disarmament

India has always been an ardent supporter of multilateral nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.



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's nuclear doctrine

- Building and maintaining a **credible minimum deterrent**.
- A posture of "**No First Use**". Nuclear weapons will only be used in retaliation against a nuclear attack on India.
- Nuclear retaliation to a first strike will be massive and designed to inflict **unacceptable damage**.
- Non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states.
- Continued commitment to the goal of a **nuclear weapon free world**, through global, verifiable and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament.

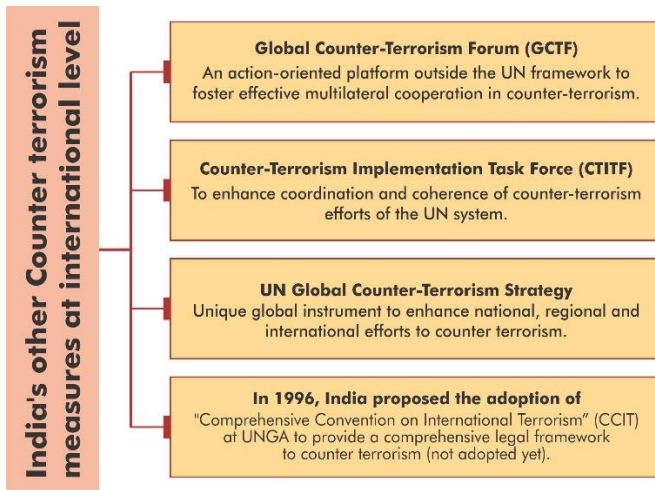
8.2. COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE

Why in news?

India votes in favour of UNSC resolution to renew mandate of counter-terrorism committee executive directorate (CTED).

About CTED

- CTED was established by UNSC Resolution 1535 in 2004 as an expert body to support UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).
 - CTED conducts **country visits on CTC's behalf** to assess Member States' counter-terrorism efforts, including progress made, remaining shortfalls, priority areas for technical assistance needs etc.
- CTC was established by UNSC resolution 1373 (2001), to **implement measures intended to enhance their legal and institutional ability to counter terrorist activities** at home, in their regions and around the world.



- It was **established after the 9/11 terror attack** to bolster the ability of UN member states to prevent terrorist acts both within their borders and across regions.
- **Presently, there is no universally agreed definition of terrorism.**
- **India, will chair the CTC in 2022.**

Related news

BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan

India virtually hosted **11th BRICS meeting of NSAs** that adopted **BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan**.

- The Action Plan aims to **further strengthen existing mechanisms of cooperation** in areas such as financing and combating terrorism, misuse of the internet by terrorists, etc.

Hybrid terrorists

Kashmir valley has seen a **rise in the attacks** being carried out by 'Part time or Hybrid terrorists'.

- **About Hybrid terrorists**
 - They are **not listed with security forces** but are in touch with militants.
 - “Hybrid” militant can be a boy next door who **had been radicalised and kept on standby mode** by the handlers for carrying out a terror incident.
 - They **carry out a task** that is given to them and **then waits for the next assignment** from their masters. In between, they go back to **normal work**.
 - Such militants use **weapons like “pistols and grenades”** to create an atmosphere of “terror and fear”.
 - These are different from OGWs that provide **logistical support, cash, accommodation, and other facilities** to militants or terrorists.

8.3. 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**.

SPACE TREATIES

<p>1967 Outer Space Treaty (OST)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>1972 Liability Convention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards of liability for damage caused by space objects. 	<p>1975 Registration Convention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires states to register all space objects with UN. 	<p>1979 Moon Agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures that Moon and other Celestial bodies are used for peaceful purposes.
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The infographic also features a diagram of the solar system with the Sun at the center, and planets Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune orbiting it. A rocket is shown launching from Earth towards the planets.

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.

8.4. DEFENCE EXPORTS

Why in News?

Recently, India has formally inked its first major defence system export deal with the Philippines, signing a \$375 million deal for BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles.

About BrahMos

- **BrahMos is a universal long range supersonic cruise missile** system that can be launched from land, sea and air against surface and sea-based targets.
 - BrahMos is a **joint collaboration between India (Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)) and Russia (NPO Mashinostoyenia).**
 - Name represents **Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers.**
- **It is a two stage missile** with a solid propellant booster engine as first stage and liquid ramjet as second stage.
 - It operates at **fire and forget principle.**
- The range of the missile was **originally capped at 290 km** as per obligations of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).
 - **Following India's entry in MTCR in 2016**, it was decided to extend the range to 450 km and to 600 km at a later stage.

Other similar missile systems

- **Chinese HD-1 supersonic missile** is a comprehensive weapon system consisting of missile, launch, command and control, target indication and comprehensive support systems.
 - Missile platform can be adapted to aircraft and ships as well as the basic ground-based vehicle version.
 - HD-1's needs less fuel than its competitors, rendering the lighter missile able to fly faster and farther.
- **Tomahawk (used by U.S and its allies)** is a long-range, all-weather, subsonic cruise missile that launches from ships and submarines and can strike targets precisely from 1,000 miles away.
- **Israel's Sea Breaker**, the 5th generation long range, autonomous, precision-guided missile system, is meant to hit high-value maritime and land targets
- **P-800 Oniks/Yakhont** is a Russian supersonic anti-ship cruise missiles that has an effective guidance system and is a fire-and-forget missile.

Rising Defence Exports from India

India exported military hardware and systems worth Rs 38,500 crore in the last seven years.

1

2

Increased from ₹1,521 crore in 2016-17 to ₹8,434.84 crore in 2020-21.

Major Arsenal Exported
Armoured protection vehicles, light-weight torpedo, weapons locating radar, fire control systems, Offshore patrol vehicles and tear gas launchers.

3

4

Presently, India is exporting defence equipment to more than 75 countries around the globe.

Three Indian companies figure among the top 100 defence companies in the 2020 rankings – Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Ordnance Factory Board and Bharat Electronics Ltd (BELT)

5

6

In 2020, **Draft Defence Procurement and Export promotion Policy (DPEPP) was promulgated** with a vision to make India amongst the leading countries of the world in Defence sector, including Aerospace and Naval Shipbuilding sectors

Key goals and Objectives of DPEPP

- **To achieve a turnover of Rs 1,75,000 Crores (US\$ 25Bn)** including export of Rs 35,000 Crore (US\$ 5 Bn) in Aerospace and Defence goods and services by 2025.
- **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.

Reforms/steps taken up to boost defence exports in recent times

Indigenisation Support to MSMEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government had issued two “positive indigenisation lists” consisting of 209 items that cannot be imported and can only be procured from domestic industry. In addition, a percentage of the capital outlay of the defence budget has been reserved for procurement from domestic industry. SRIJAN portal to provide development support to MSMEs/Startups/Industry.
Simplified defence industrial licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has delegated its authority and notified Department of Defence Production (DDP) as the Licensing Authority for export of various items. MHA has delegated its powers to DDP making it single point of contact for exporter for export of parts and components of Small Arms & Ammunitions. Open General Export License permits the industry to export specified items to specified destinations.
Investment Promotion and Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A completely end-to-end online portal for receiving and processing export authorisation permission has been developed. In Intra-Company business, the earlier requirement of getting End User Certificate (EUC) from the Government of importing country has been done away. Powers have been delegated to DRDO and CMDs of DPSUs for exploring export opportunities and participation in global tenders.
Scheme for Promotion of Defence Exports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide an opportunity to the prospective exporters an option to get their product certified by the Government. Provides access to the testing infrastructure of Ministry of Defence for initial validation of the product and its subsequent field trials.
Offset Policy reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offset is an important mechanism available to the domestic industry to enhance export capability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offset is an obligation by an international player to boost India’s domestic defence industry if India is buying defence equipment from it. This helps in acquisition of critical technologies required for high end weapons/platforms so that the same can be leveraged for export. Reforms in Offset policy have been included in DAP 2020.
Defense Indigenization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020: ‘Buy {Indian-IDD (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)}’ category has been accorded top most priority for procurement of capital equipment. Defence Procurement Procedure 2016 provided for Technology Perspective and Capability Roadmap (TPCR) to share Long Term integrated Perspective Plan (15 years) and future needs with industry. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It helps defence equipment manufacturers to plan technology tie-ups with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), set up production lines or augment production capacities. Enhanced FDI in Defence Sector up to 74% through the Automatic Route and up to 100% by Government Route. Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) has been launched aimed at engaging Industries including MSMEs, Start-ups etc. Established two Defence Industrial Corridors (in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu).
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific incentives were introduced under the foreign trade policy (2015) to give a boost to exports of defense and hi-tech items. MEA has facilitated Lines of Credit for countries to import defence product.

8.5. INTEGRATED THEATRE COMMANDS

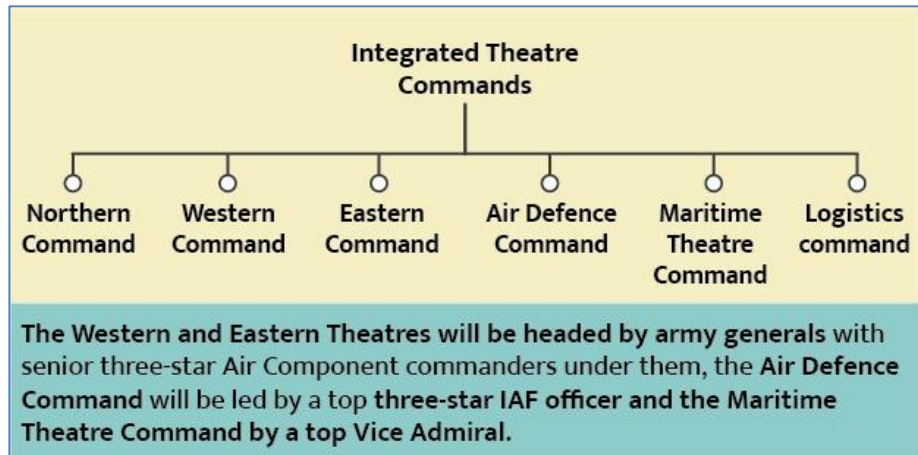
Why in news?

Recently, the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) chaired a meeting with the Vice Chiefs of the three Services among others, in the backdrop of concerns about the proposed model of the Integrated Theatre Commands.

About Integrated Theatre Commands

- An integrated theatre command envisages a unified command of the three Services, under a single commander, for geographical theatres that are of security concern.
 - The commander of such a force will be able to bring to bear all resources at his disposal — from the IAF, the Army and the Navy — with seamless efficacy.

- The idea of Integrated Theatre commands has been proposed by both the Kargil review committee as well as D B Shekatkar committee.
- Shekatkar committee** in 2016 recommended creating 3 integrated theatre commands:
 - Northern command for the China border,
 - Western command for the Pakistan border and
 - Southern command for the maritime borders.
- The current theaterisation model under consideration seeks to set up **at least six new integrated commands**.
- The theaterisation model will have the **inbuilt flexibility to fall back on current command and control structures** to eliminate the possibility of the country getting caught off guard by its adversaries during the crucial transition phase.
- India's **Chief of Defence Staff has been given the mandate to steer the theaterisation drive**. It is expected that jointness among three services would be rolled out by 2023.



About CDS

- CDS act as the principal military adviser to the defence minister on all tri-services matters.
- CDS is on par with the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) in terms of the retirement age.

8.6. UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES PREVENTION ACT (UAPA)

Why in news?

Supreme Court recently held that Magistrates can't extend probe under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

More on news

- Court highlighted that **only a special court designated under UAPA(Section 43-D of UAPA) will be authorised to deal with the issue of extending the time for filing of charge sheets and that magistrates cannot deal with such cases of extension**.
 - SC had given a similar verdict in the **in Bikramjit Singh vs. State of Punjab, 2020**.
 - Special courts are **set up under National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act** and in the absence of such special courts, **with sessions courts**.

About UAPA

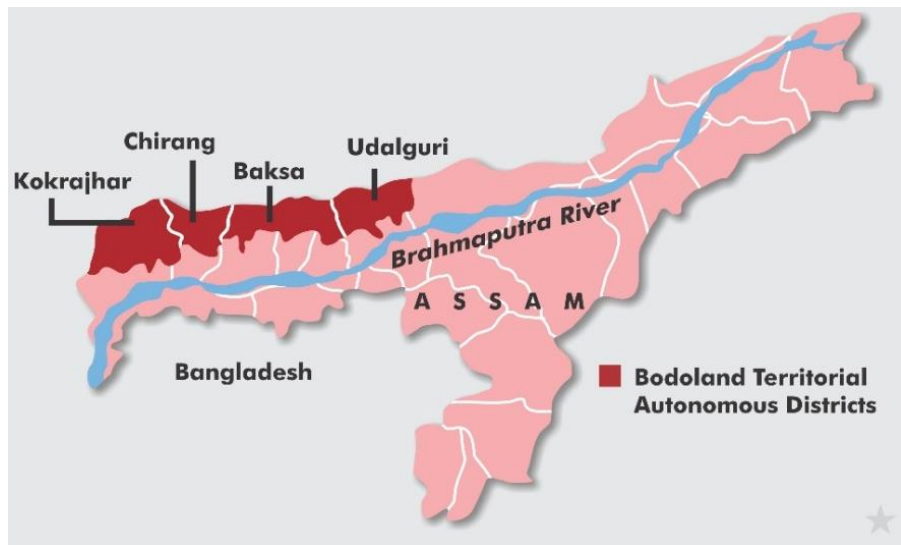
- The UAPA is India's main anti-terrorism legislation, whereby the **investigation has to be completed within 90 days.If not**, the accused is entitled to **default bail**.
- Key provisions of UAPA, 1967 (amended in 2019)**
 - Central can designate an **organisation or an individual** as a terrorist organization.
 - Empowers the Director General of **National Investigation Agency (NIA) to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property**.
 - Empowers the officers of the NIA, of the **rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases of terrorism**.
- The **conviction rate in the UAPA is very low. Only 2.2% of cases registered under the UAPA between 2016 and 2019 resulted in conviction by courts**.

8.7. NORTH EAST REGION

8.7.1. 3RD BODO PEACE ACCORD

Why in news?

Assam govt sets up Bodoland department for faster development of Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) and to deal with the issues of four districts of BTR (Kokrajhar, Baksa, Chirang and Udalguri) as part of the 3rd Bodo Peace Accord.



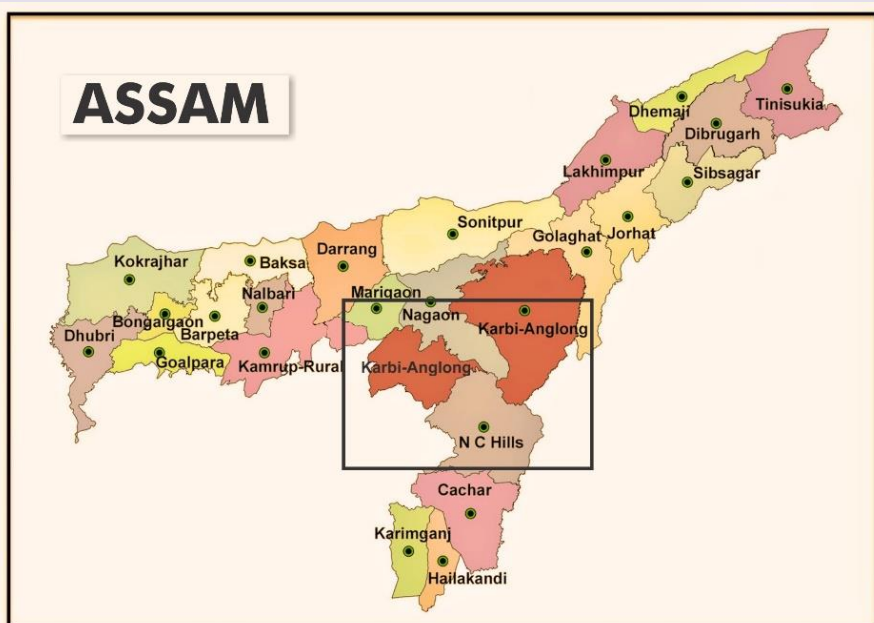
About 3rd Bodo Peace Accord

- 3rd Bodo Peace Accord was a **tripartite agreement** signed in 2020 **between the Centre, Assam Government and the banned Assam-based insurgent group National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB)**.
 - It had renamed **Bodo Territorial Areas District (BTAD)**, as BTR with more executive, administrative, legislative and financial powers.
 - BTAD **was administered by the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)**. It functions under the provision of **the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India**.
 - However, accord also said that a **commission will be constituted by the central government for the demarcation and reorganisation of the BTR**.
- Bodoland is a **state demanded by a tribal community called Bodos in Assam**, who comprise of 5%-6% of the state's population.

Related News

Tripartite peace deal "Karbi Peace Accord" inked to end Karbi Anglong unrest in Assam.

- A tripartite agreement among **five insurgent groups of Assam, the Centre and the State government** was signed to end years of violence in the Karbi Anglong region.
 - **The Karbi insurgency for a separate state of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills** is one of the several insurgencies that Assam has faced over the years, apart from the Bodoland movement and the one led by ULFA (United Liberation Front of Asom) for sovereignty of Assam.
- **Karbi Anglong**
 - It is the **largest district in Assam**, comprising various tribal and ethnic groups such as Karbis, Bodos, Kukis, Dimasas, etc.
 - The Karbis racially belong to the **Mongoloid group and linguistically to the Tibeto-Burman group**.
 - It is an **autonomous district under the Sixth Schedule** of the Indian Constitution. In 1995, it was upgraded to **KAAC** from KarbiAnglong District Council (KADC).



8.8. ISLAND DEVELOPMENTAL STRATEGY

Why in news?

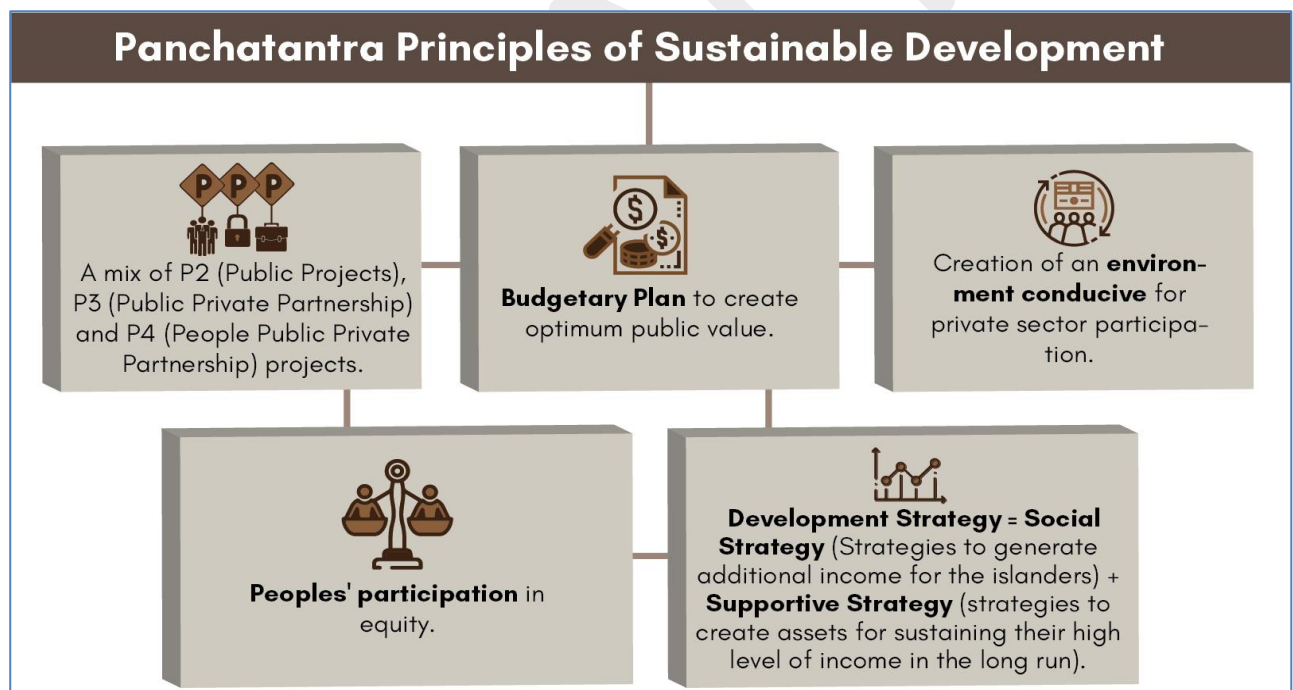
Recently, some developmental changes were opposed in the islands of Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar.

More on news

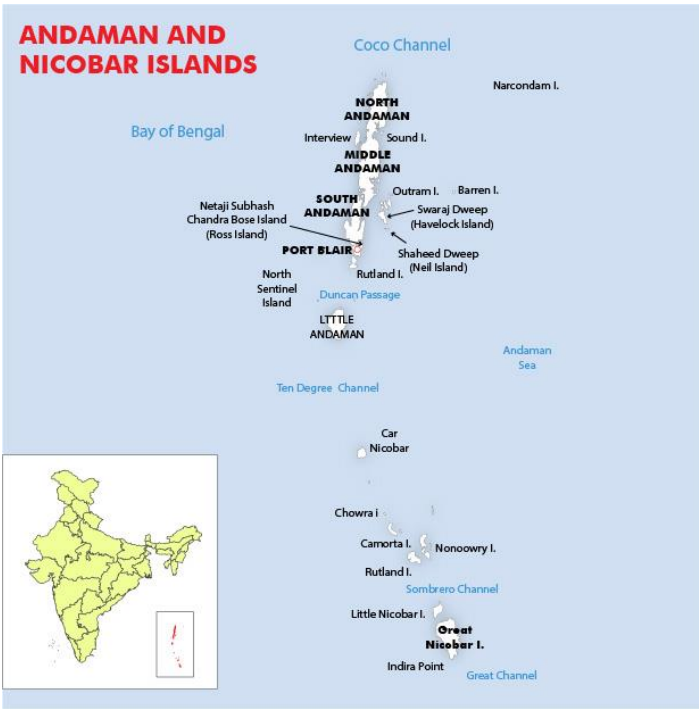
- Lakshadweep administration has introduced some legislations, which are:

Regulation	What it does?
The Lakshadweep Animal Preservation Regulation, 2021	It prohibits slaughtering or causing any animal to be slaughtered without a certificate issued by the authorities.
The Lakshadweep Panchayat Regulation, 2021	It proposed a new panchayat regulation that makes any person with more than two children ineligible to contest panchayat elections or continue as a member. The regulation states that it provides for the preservation of animals suitable for milch, breeding or for agricultural purposes. For this purpose, no certificate will be given to slaughter cows, calves, bull or bullocks in the island.
The Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation 2021	It allows the government to evict, alter and/or occupy any land owned by any common man in the island for development purposes.
The Lakshadweep Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Regulation	It provides for the administrator to order the detention of a person for a period of up to one year if the offender's actions adversely affect the maintenance of public order.

- There has been considerable opposition to these legislations.
- In order to balance the developmental needs of all the stakeholders, 'Panchatantra Principles of Sustainable Development' as suggested by NITI Aayog can be adopted. These principles are:



ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS



LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS



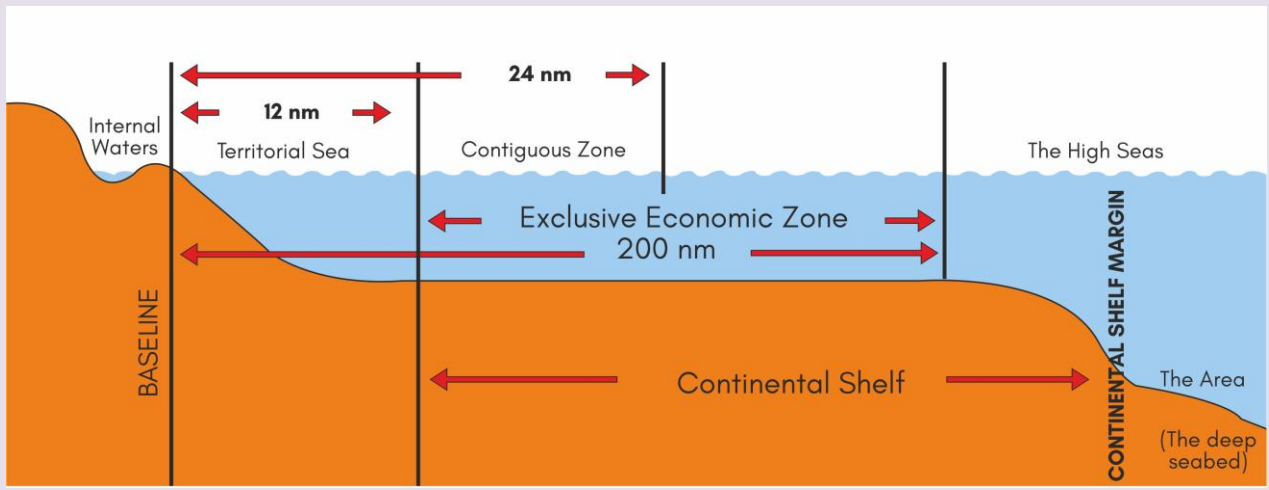
Related Information

Island Development Agency (IDA):

- IDA was constituted in June 2017 for the holistic development of islands.
- It is chaired by Union Home Minister and includes secretaries of various ministries.

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) defines an EEZ as generally extending 200 nautical miles from shore, within which the coastal state has the rights over exploration, exploitation, conservation, and management of natural resources and other economic activities, such as the production of wind or tidal power.



8.9. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

<p>AUKUS</p>	<p>Australia, UK and US have announced a new trilateral program AUKUS.</p> <p>About AUKUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUKUS, by Australia, UK and US, is a new security alliance that aims for deeper cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and greater sharing of defence capabilities within the alliance. • The plan is to give access to cutting edge military technology to Australia by its two partners, including futuristic capabilities like artificial intelligence and quantum technologies. • As part of the pact, Australia will abandon its US \$43 billion plan to build French conventional submarines, and instead build vessels based on US-UK technology.
<p>UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report</p>	<p>As per the report, Afghan Opium Production Rises for a Fifth Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings are part of a report by UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) that was launched at the meeting of Paris Pact Initiative (PPI).

PT 365 - International Relations

<p>on drug trafficking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PPI is an international coalition (India also a part) launched in 2003 to combat illicit traffic in opiates originating in Afghanistan. ● Key highlights of the report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opium harvest in Afghanistan increased by 8% in 2021 with a total production of 6,800 tons. ○ Accounting for 85% of global opium production in 2020, Afghan opiates supply 8 out of 10 (80%) opiate users worldwide. ○ Increasing methamphetamine manufacture in Afghanistan due to saturating opiates market and high regional and global demand for methamphetamine. ● Impact on India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ According to a UNODC report 45% of the heroin in India originates from Afghanistan. ○ Recently, lower-cost synthetic methamphetamine is drawing the bulk of young users in India. ○ Vulnerability to southern trafficking route. 											
<p>Delhi Regional Security Dialogue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India hosted the regional security dialogue to discuss the overall security situation in Afghanistan following the Taliban's capture of power in the country. ● Two earlier meetings in this format have been held in Iran in 2018 and in 2019. ● It is for the first time that all Central Asian countries and not just Afghanistan's immediate land neighbours are participating in this format. ● The Delhi Declaration was adopted by the NSAs of Russia, Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. ● There was agreement on a range of issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strong support for a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan. ○ Collective cooperation against the menace of radicalisation, extremism, separatism and drug trafficking in the region. <p>Humanitarian assistance should be provided in an unimpeded, direct and assured manner to Afghanistan.</p>											
<p>National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC)</p>	<p>Centre to appoint National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It was recommended by the Kargil Review Committee. ● About NMSC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interface between the civilian and military maritime domains. ○ Will work under the National Security Adviser (NSA) ○ It will be the principal advisor to the government on maritime security domain. ● Significance of NMSC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve efficiency as Navy, Coast Guard and state maritime boards all tend to work in silos with overlapping jurisdictions and are constantly at odds with each other. ○ Maritime and energy security as China plans to reach to eastern sea board of Africa through Indian maritime domain. ○ Creation of NMSC is part of Act East Policy vision that also includes SAGAR (Security and Growth of All in the Region), the Deep Ocean Mission, and the Sagarmala project. 											
<p>Principles for Global Maritime Security</p>	<p>At UNSC debate, PM lists out 5 principles for Global Maritime Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This is in line with the Indian initiative SAGAR, i.e. Security And Growth for All in the Region. <table border="1" data-bbox="391 1444 1460 2018"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="391 1444 710 1496">Five Principles</th> <th data-bbox="710 1444 1460 1496">Rationale</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="391 1496 710 1585"> Removing barriers from legitimate maritime trade </td> <td data-bbox="710 1496 1460 1585"> Oceans are world's common heritage and modern sea routes are lifeline of International trade. </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="391 1585 710 1742"> Settling maritime disputes through peaceful means and on the basis of international law </td> <td data-bbox="710 1585 1460 1742"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nations should settle maritime disputes based on UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. ● E.g. India resolved its disputes with Bangladesh based on it. </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="391 1742 710 1933"> Jointly facing natural disasters and maritime threats created by non-state actors </td> <td data-bbox="710 1742 1460 1933"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Globally, acts of piracy and armed robbery increased by 20% during 1st-half of 2020 despite declined maritime traffic volume. ● Need is to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000). </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="391 1933 710 2018"> Preserving the maritime environment and resources </td> <td data-bbox="710 1933 1460 2018"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oceans are vital for not just livelihood but social and cultural life of impoverished coastal communities. </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Five Principles	Rationale	Removing barriers from legitimate maritime trade	Oceans are world's common heritage and modern sea routes are lifeline of International trade.	Settling maritime disputes through peaceful means and on the basis of international law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nations should settle maritime disputes based on UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. ● E.g. India resolved its disputes with Bangladesh based on it. 	Jointly facing natural disasters and maritime threats created by non-state actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Globally, acts of piracy and armed robbery increased by 20% during 1st-half of 2020 despite declined maritime traffic volume. ● Need is to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000). 	Preserving the maritime environment and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oceans are vital for not just livelihood but social and cultural life of impoverished coastal communities.
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	Encouraging responsible maritime connectivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently, we have International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code for it.
Air defence identification zone (ADIZ)	<p>Chinese aircrafts entered Taiwan's Air defence identification zone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About ADIZ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the airspace over land or water that provides an early warning system to help a country detect possible incursions into its sovereign airspace. It stretches beyond the boundary of a country's national airspace. ADIZs are not binding legal agreements. Also, different countries ADIZs can overlap. However, a country cannot shoot down an aircraft that enters its ADIZ without notification.
Financial Action Task Force (FATF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pakistan will continue to be on 'Grey List' of FATF. Also, Turkey, Jordan and Mali have been added to the 'Grey List' while Mauritius and Botswana have been taken off the list. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion in the Grey List implies strategic deficiencies detected in a jurisdiction's policies to prevent money laundering and terror financing. It makes it difficult for a country to get financial aid from international organisations. FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to integrity of international financial system. India is a member of FATF.
Five Eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, 'Five Eyes' security alert caused the New Zealand cricket board to cancel the Pakistan tour. Five Eyes alliance is an intelligence-sharing arrangement between US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Under this, intelligence agencies of these five countries share signal, military and human intelligence among themselves.
Defence Advisory Council (DAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DAC approved the deal for AK 203 rifles with Russia. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First 20,000 rifles which will be imported from Russia. Then, more than 6 lakh rifles will be manufactured in India. DAC is the highest decision-making body in the Defence Ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services (Army, Navy and Air Force) and the Indian Coast Guard. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister of Defence is the Chairman of the Council.
Project 75 (India) [P-75(I)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's Defense Ministry Issues First P-75I Submarine Tender. Project-75(I) envisages indigenous construction of six modern conventional submarines with contemporary equipment, weapons & sensors including Fuel-Cell based AIP (Air Independent Propulsion Plant) etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIP technology allows conventional diesel-electric submarines to remain underwater for longer, enhancing its lethality. Other countries to have an AIP system include China, Germany, Sweden, France, Spain and Russia. P-75I submarine project – estimated at over \$5.5 billion – is the first acquisition India has undertaken through its Strategic Partnership procurement model.
Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Defence has issued orders for dissolution of OFB (wef. October 1) to give shape to long awaited reform plan to corporatize OFB. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assets, staff, and operations of 41 ordnance factories under OFB will be transferred to seven defence public sector units. Corporatisation is aimed at bringing improvements in efficiency, making products cost-competitive, and enhancing their quality. OFB is engaged in production, testing, logistics, research, development and marketing of a comprehensive product range in the area of land, sea and air systems.
Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First CSC Virtual Workshop on "Developing Regional Cyber Security Capabilities on Defensive operations, Deep/Dark Web handling and Digital Forensics" was hosted by the National Security Council Secretariat. CSC is the renamed version of National Security Advisor (NSA) Level Trilateral on Maritime Security (of 2011) with India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Maldives and Seychelles as observer states and Secretariat at Colombo. It helps member nations to build capacity on common security threats effectively through its four pillars of cooperation: Maritime Safety and Security, Terrorism and Radicalization, Trafficking and Organized Crime and Cyber Security and Protection of Critical Infrastructure.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some Initiatives taken at regional level for cybersecurity are Pacific Cyber Security Operational Network (PaCSON), Singapore-ASEAN Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (ASCCE), YAKSHA, (EU-ASEAN partnership).
Log4Shell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Log4Shell is being touted as one of the worst cybersecurity flaws to have been discovered. Vulnerability is based on an open-source logging library used in most applications by enterprises and even government agencies. Using this vulnerability hackers can get access to an application, and could potentially run malicious software on a device or servers.
REvil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ransomware group REvil has been dismantled by the Russian authorities at the request of US government agencies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REvil's name is an amalgam of "ransomware" and "evil". It is a Russia-based hacking organization. Ransomware is a malware (collective name for malicious software variants) that employs encryption to hold a victim's information at ransom. Group REvil would steal data from computers, lock the victims out of their computers, and then threaten to release stolen data by auctioning it off.
Laws on Surveillance in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication surveillance in India takes place primarily under two laws: The Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Information Technology Act, 2000. Under both laws, only the government, under certain circumstances, is permitted to conduct surveillance, and not private actors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under Telegraph Act, 1885, the government can intercept calls only in certain situations like the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states or public order, or for preventing incitement to the commission of an offence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ These are the same restrictions imposed on free speech under Article 19(2) of the Constitution. Under IT (Procedures and Safeguards for Interception, Monitoring and Decryption of Information) Rules framed in 2009 under the IT Act, state that only the competent authority can issue an order. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The competent authority is Union Home Secretary or State Secretaries in charge of the Home Departments.
Pegasus	<p>Recent controversy regarding Pegasus spyware has fuelled the debate related to cyber surveillance in India.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is developed and licensed by an Israeli company, NSO Group.
Territorial army (TA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TA celebrated its 72nd Raising Day on 09 Oct 2021. It was raised by Britishers in 1920. After Independence, Territorial Army Act was passed in 1948 and TA was formally inaugurated (present strength approx 50,000). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a part of Regular Army (RA) and its present role is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relieve RA from static duties and assist Civil Administration in dealing with natural calamities. Maintenance of essential services in situations where life of the communities is affected or the security of the Country is threatened. To provide units for RA as and when required.
Border Security Force (BSF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, the government issued a notification to empower BSF to conduct searches, arrest suspects and make seizures up to 50 km from India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders under CrPC, Passport Act and Passport (Entry to India) Act. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in 1965 to safeguard Indian Borders with West Pakistan (now Pakistan) and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), BSF is also deployed to counter-insurgency and other internal security duties. BSF is administered by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
National Cadet Corps (NCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Defence (MoD) has constituted a High Level Expert Committee for a comprehensive review of NCC in order to make it more relevant in changed times. NCC is a youth development movement that came into existence in 1948. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCC aims at developing character, comradeship, discipline, a secular outlook, spirit of adventure and ideals of selfless service amongst young citizens. NCC is open to all regular students of schools and colleges on a voluntary basis. MoD deals with NCC at National level and Ministry of Education in all states.

<p>Defence India Startup Challenge 5.0</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched under Innovations for Defence Excellence - Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO) iDEX aims to achieve self - reliance and foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DIO is a “not for profit” company to administer the iDEX framework. Department of Defence Production (DDP) will release funds to DIO for setting up and managing the iDEX network.
<p>MANTHAN 2021 Hackathon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is unique national initiative to identify innovative concepts and technology solutions for addressing the security challenges of the 21st century faced by our intelligence agencies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges like Fake Content Identification, predictive Cyber Crime data analytics, etc. It is organized by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) under Ministry of Home Affairs in coordination with the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education and AICTE.
<p>White shipping information exchange</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, signed between Indian Navy And Royal Navy Of Oman. White shipping information refers to exchange of relevant advance information on the identity and movement of commercial non-military merchant vessels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ships are classified into white (commercial ships), grey (military vessels), and black (illegal vessels). It prevents potential threats from sea from impinging an coastal and offshore security of the country. India has signed white shipping agreements with several countries including United States, Singapore and France.
<p>Operation Sadbhavana (Goodwill)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, Indian Army decided to sponsor 110 students from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to its residential schools and higher education institutions as part of Operation Sadbhavana. About Operation Sadbhavana <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aimed at ‘winning hearts and minds’ of residents in two UTs, it is a unique humane initiative (started by Army in 1998) to address aspirations of people affected by scrooge of terrorism. It involves active engagement of the Army with civil administration in Social Sectors like Education, Health and Sanitation etc.

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9. MISCELLANEOUS

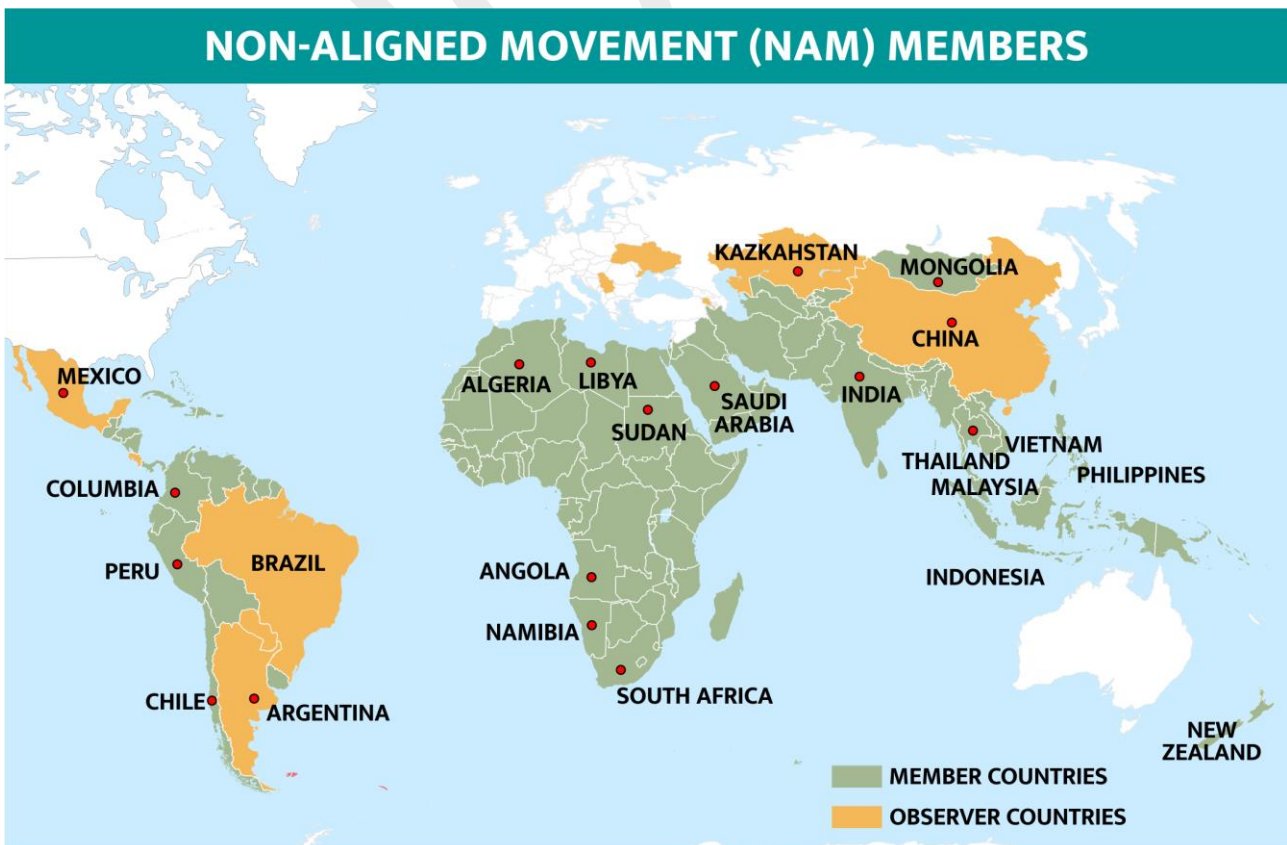
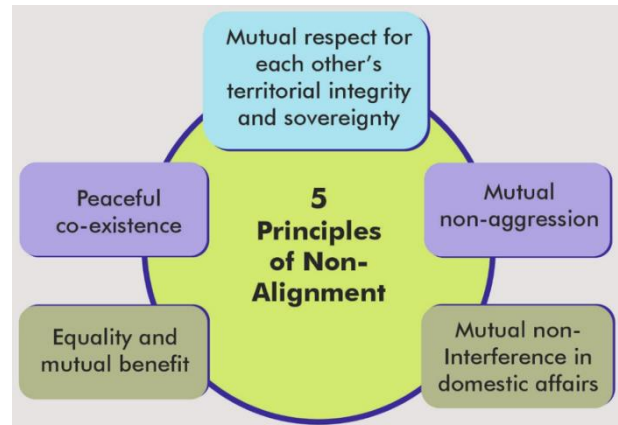
9.1. NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

Why in news?

Recently, Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has completed 60 years.

About Non-Aligned Movement

- NAM was created and founded during the independence struggles of Africa, Asia, Latin America and at the height of the Cold War.
 - The idea was to declare themselves as "non-aligned" from either of the two nascent military blocks (NATO and the Warsaw Pact).
 - A key role was played in this process by the then Heads of State of **Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia and Yugoslavia**, who later became the **founding fathers of the movement**.
- Origin: Asia-Africa Conference held in Bandung, Indonesia in 1955.**
- "Ten Principles of Bandung"** proclaimed during Bandung Asian-African Conference (April, 1955) were adopted later as the **main goals of NAM**.
- 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**.
- After end of cold war, movement seemed to have lost its relevance but during Havana summit (2006), member countries reaffirmed their commitment to the ideals, principles and purposes upon which the movement was founded and with the United Nations Charter.**
- 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.



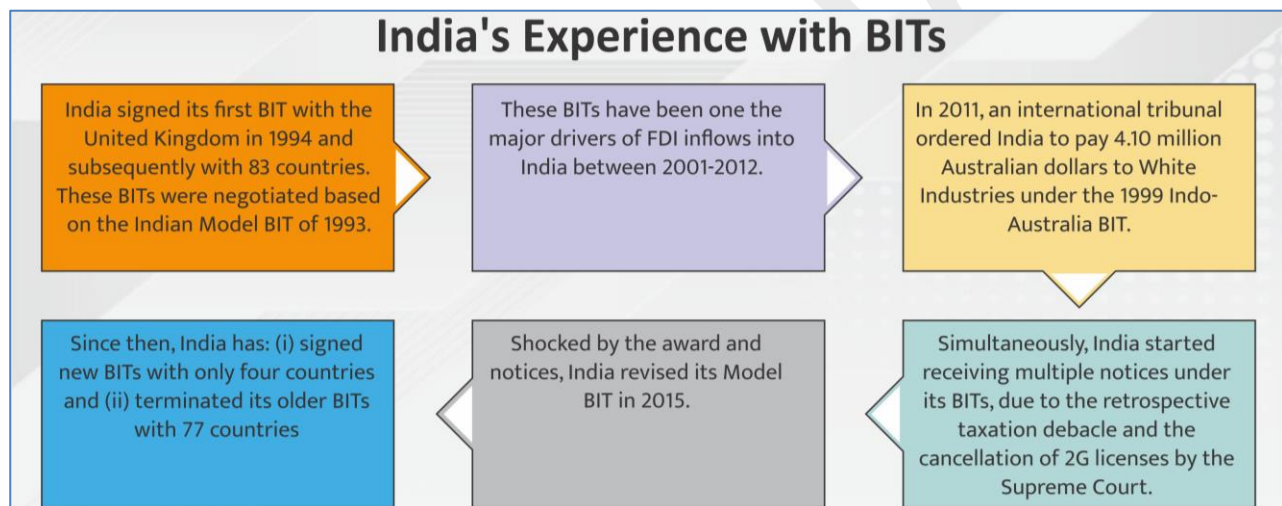
9.2. BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATIES

Why in news?

Recently, the Standing Committee on External Affairs submitted its report on 'India and Bilateral Investment Treaties'.

About Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs)

- BITs are **international agreements** establishing the terms and conditions for private investment by nationals and companies of one state in another state **to promote and protect foreign private investments** in each other's territories.
- BIT **establishes minimum guarantees** between the two countries regarding the treatment of foreign investments, such as
 - **National treatment** (treating foreign investors at par with domestic companies),
 - **Fair and equitable treatment** (in accordance with international law),
 - **Protection from expropriation** (limiting each country's ability to take over foreign investments in its territory).
 - **Protection of investors' right** (through an alternative dispute resolution mechanism whereby an investor can approach International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) rather than suing the host State in its own courts).
- There are more than 2,500 BITs active in the world today and **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) maintains a database of all BITs** between all states.



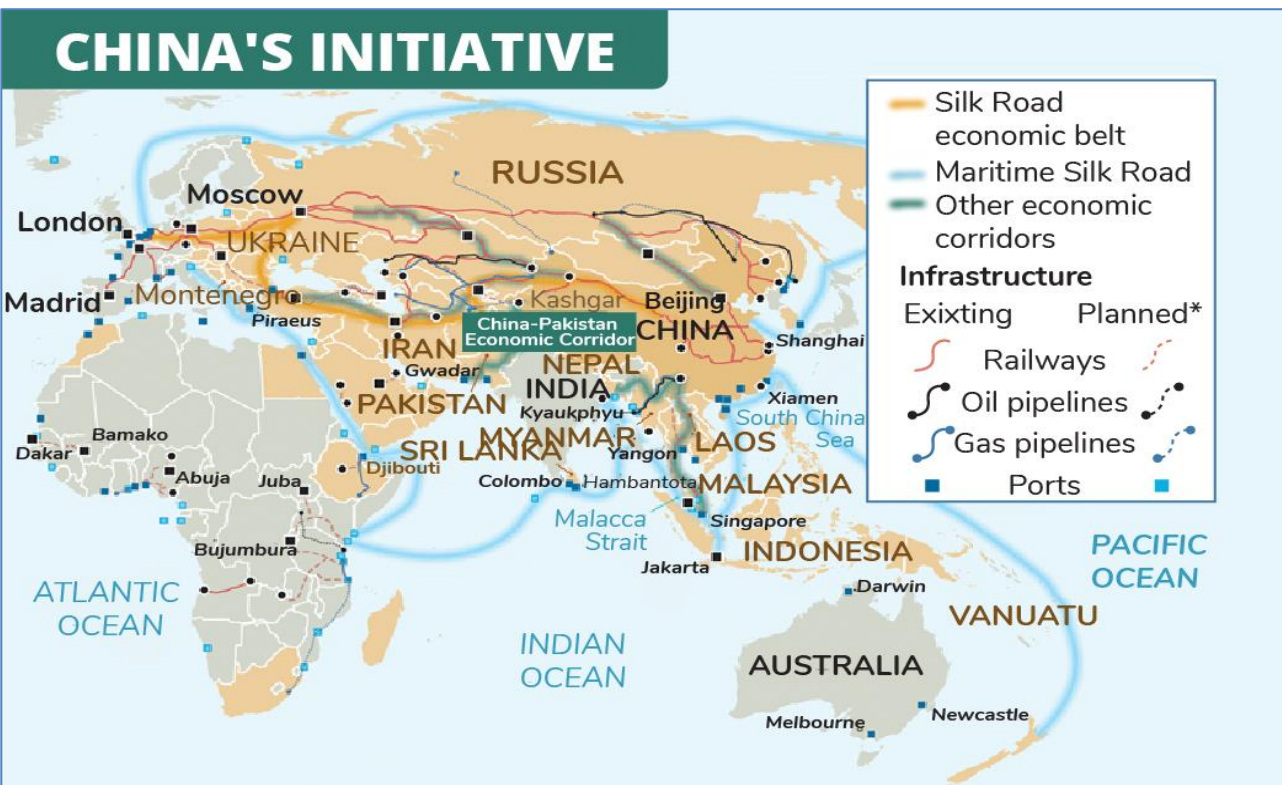
9.3. DEBT TRAP DIPLOMACY

Why in News?

Montenegro is struggling to pay off Chinese loan for a highway project, which has put the country in a dire financial situation.

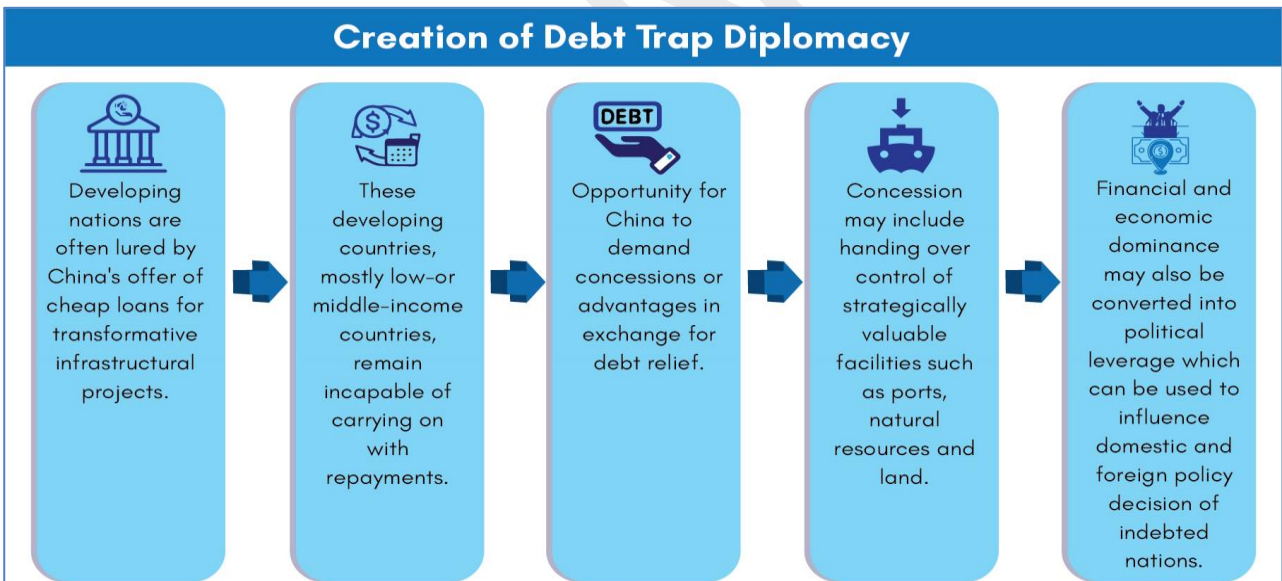
More on the News

- In 2018, a report by the Center for Global Development highlighted eight Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) recipient countries at a high risk of debt distress due to BRI loans. These countries included **Djibouti, Laos, the Maldives, Mongolia, Montenegro, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan**.
 - They are highly prone to the mounting debt-to-GDP ratios beyond 50 percent, and around 40 percent of their external debt owed to China.



About Debt Trap Diplomacy

- The term was coined by Indian geo-strategist Brahma Chellaney in 2017.



Other Global initiatives for Infrastructure financing

- Blue Dot Network:** The initiative gathers financial institutions from the US (U.S. International Development Finance Corporation), Japan (Japan Bank for International Cooperation) and Australia (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), it will work as a **certification body that will evaluate infrastructure construction projects in the Indo Pacific region.**
- Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI):** It is a partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions that aims to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development.
- Asia-Africa Growth Corridor:** The Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) is an economic partnership agreement between **India and Japan.** It intends to improve infrastructure and digital connectivity in Africa within Indo-Japan collaboration.

- **European Union's new connectivity strategy:** In September 2018, the EU adopted a joint communication on 'Connecting Europe and Asia – Building blocks for an EU strategy'. The strategy proposes that the EU engage with its Asian partners through a sustainable, comprehensive and rules-based approach to connectivity, exploiting existing and planned EU networks.
- **Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) policy:** It addresses the implementation and development of a Europe-wide network of railway lines, roads, inland waterways, maritime shipping routes, ports, airports and railroad terminals.
- **Global Infrastructure Facility (GIF):** It is an initiative of G20 countries. It is a global collaboration platform that integrates efforts to boost private investment in sustainable, quality infrastructure projects in developing countries and emerging markets.

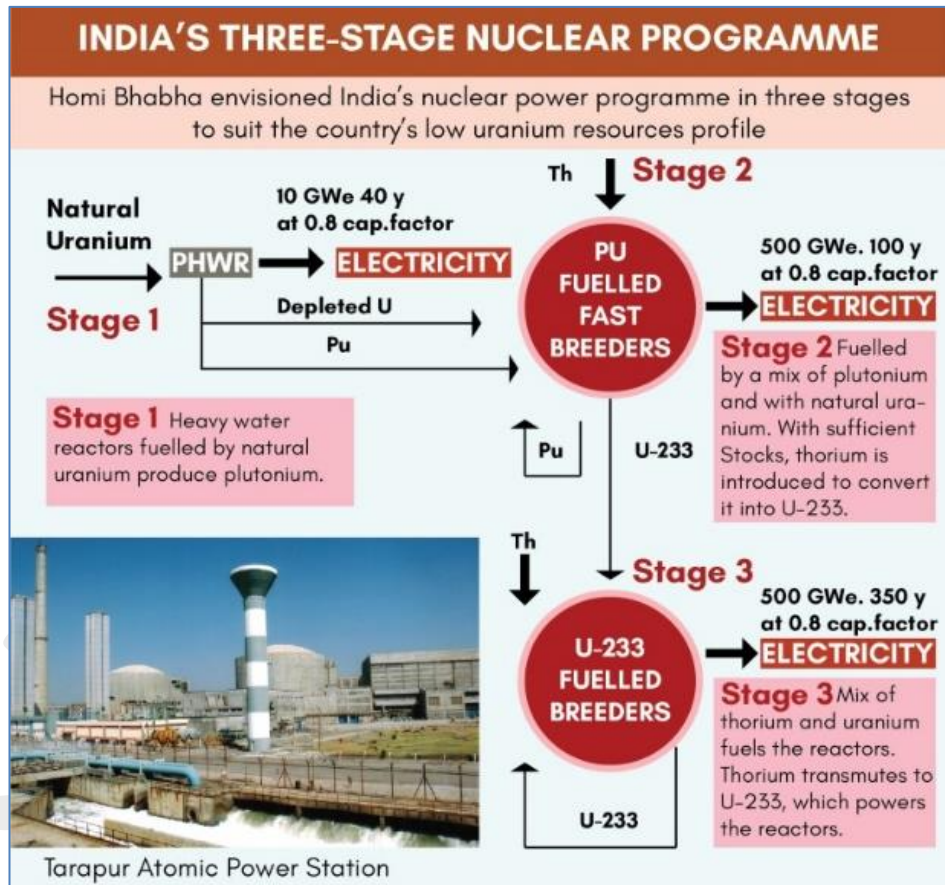
9.4. INDIA'S CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY COOPERATION

Why in news?

Recently, Russian nuclear major **Rosatom** began construction of **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) Unit 5** in India in cooperation with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL), a PSU under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

About India's Nuclear Energy Architecture

- At present, India has civil nuclear agreements with 14 countries, namely Argentina, Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Namibia, Russia, South Korea, United Kingdom, US and Vietnam.
- This is despite India **not being a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty** and operating outside the ambit of the **Nuclear Suppliers Group**.
- A central tenet of these agreements is the focus on the **peaceful purposes of nuclear power** which entails the use of information, nuclear material, equipment, or components in such fields as research, power generation, medicine, agriculture, and industry.
- India has observed a **self-moratorium on conducting nuclear tests** after the second round of Pokhran in 1998 and has abided by the **principles of the NPT** far better than even some of its signatories.



Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)

- It was established in 1974 as a result of successful nuclear test conducted by India (Operation Smiling Buddha or Pokhran-I).
- It is a group of nuclear supplier countries that seeks to contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons through the implementation of guidelines for nuclear exports and nuclear-related exports.
- **India is not a member of this group.**

INDIA'S MAJOR CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY CO-OPERATION PROGRAMS

INDIA-FRANCE

- Both had a long history of cooperation since the 1950s as it offered technical cooperation to India on civil nuclear innovation in 1950.
- Following India's 1974 peaceful nuclear explosion, France emerged as the only western country to commend the event, pointing to it as a reflection of India's advancement in the nuclear sector.
- France, in 2008, became the first country to sign a civil nuclear agreement with India following the India-specific NSG waiver.
- According to the agreement, France will construct six European Pressurized Reactors of 1,650 MW each for implementing the 9,900 MW Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project in an expedited manner.
- Recently, France Energy Company EDF has submitted a binding techno-commercial offer to Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) for building these six reactors.

INDIA-RUSSIA

- The nuclear cooperation between both dates to the 1960s, when India and the then Soviet Union signed several agreements.
- Initially, focus was on scientific and technical cooperation and key supplier of nuclear fuel to India, during a time of limited progress in India's engagement with the global nuclear architecture.
- In 2008, both signed an agreement for the construction of nuclear power plant at Kudankulam, Tamil-Nadu.
- Both agreed to consider cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy with third countries like India signing a tripartite agreement with Russia and Bangladesh to work together on the Rooppur Nuclear Power plant in Bangladesh.

US-INDIA CIVIL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT (123 AGREEMENT)

- Through this agreement, United States took India's case to the NSG to grant New Delhi a waiver in order to initiate global civil nuclear trade.
- NSG granted a clean waiver to India in 2008.
- India became the only country with nuclear weapons who is not party to the NPT that was allowed to engage in nuclear trade with the rest of the world.
- In 2009, India signed an agreement with IAEA (called the India Safeguards Agreement) which subjected India's civil nuclear facilities to IAEA safeguards.

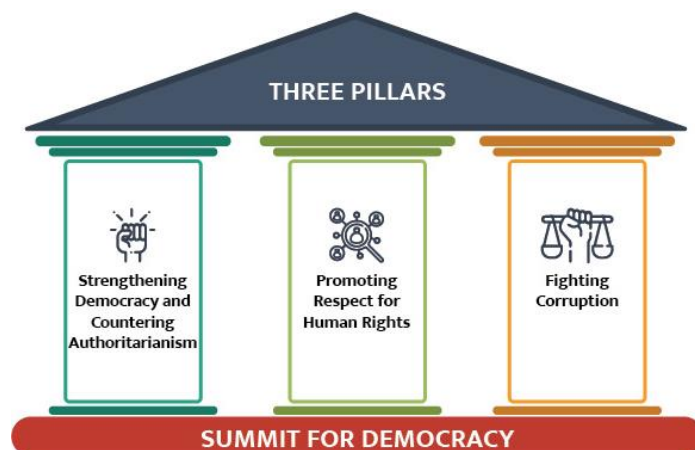
INDIA-JAPAN

- India-Japan Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was signed in 2016 and entered into force in 2017.
- A contested aspect of this agreement is the 'Nullification clause', which automatically suspends cooperation between the parties in the case of India conducting nuclear tests.
- The importance of this agreement is evident from the fact that Japan holds a near monopoly on reactor elements of the reactors, such as safety components and domes.

9.5. DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Why in News?

Speaking at the first **Summit for Democracy**, the Prime Minister (PM) of India advocated for **democratic principles to guide global governance**.

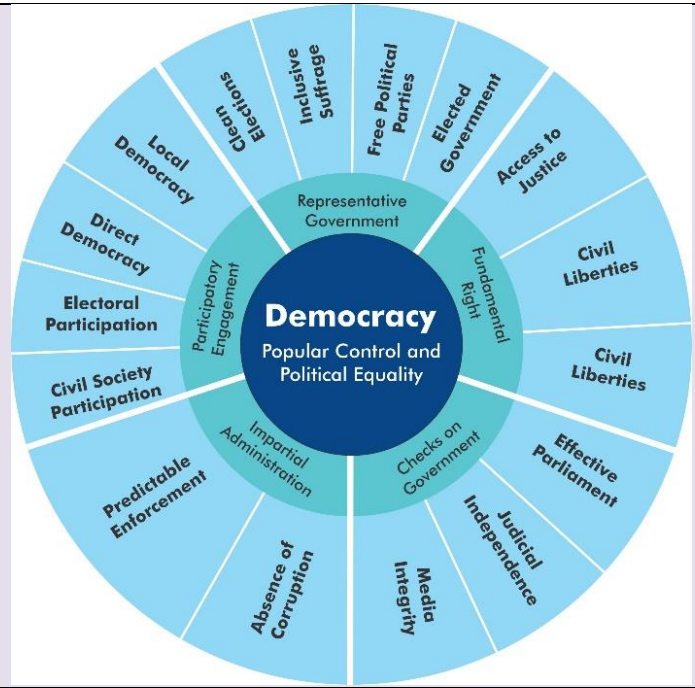


More about Summit for Democracy

- It is a **two-stage flagship presidential initiative** from the USA to put democracy and human rights at the heart of U.S. foreign policy.
- It brought together **leaders from democratic governments, civil society, and private sector**.
- It aims to bolster democracy from local to global levels through its **three Pillars** of focus (as given in image).
- At the summit, the USA launched its **Presidential Initiative for Democracy Renewal** with \$424.4 million to bolster democracy from local to global levels.

More on Global State of Democracy Report, 2021
It was released by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)

- Report refers to three main regime types: democracies, hybrid and authoritarian.
 - Democracies hold competitive elections in which opposition stands a realistic chance of accessing power. This is **not the case in hybrid and authoritarian regimes** (both classified as non-democratic).
 - It defines democracy as based on **five core attributes** (refer infographic).
 - Report highlights that **Countries moving in an authoritarian direction** in 2020 outnumbered those going in a democratic direction. Further, pandemic has prolonged this trend.
- IDEA is an intergovernmental organization with the mandate to promote and advance democracy worldwide. **India is a founding member.**



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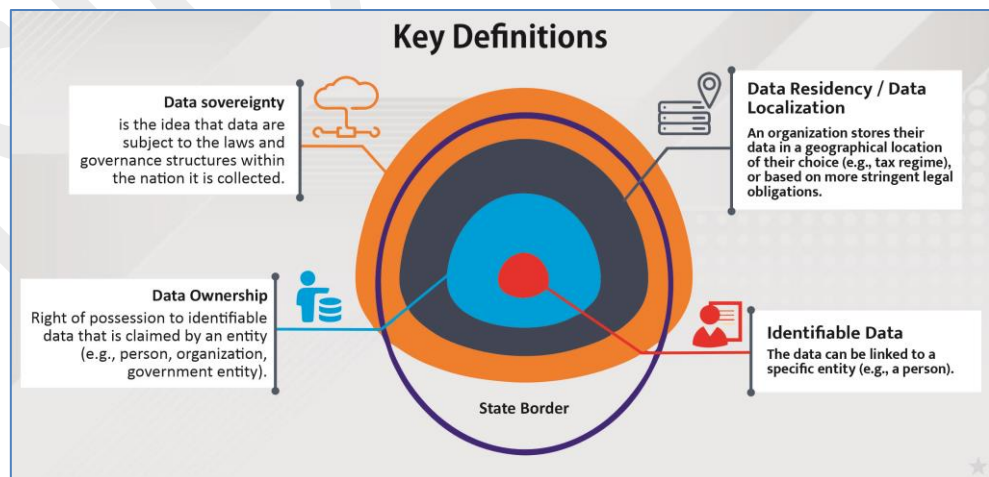
9.6. DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY

Why in News?

At Sydney dialogue, prime minister said that digital age is raising new questions on sovereignty, governance, ethics, law, rights, and security.

About digital sovereignty

- Digital sovereignty is the **right of a state to govern its network to serve its national interests**, the most important of which are security, privacy and commerce.
 - It is the ability to have control over one's own digital destiny—the data, hardware and software that one relies on and creates.



Sydney Dialogue

- **Sydney Dialogue** is an initiative of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (a think-tank) that brings together political, business and government, to assess the opportunities and challenges posed by emerging and critical technologies.
- **At the meeting, PM highlighted 5 important transitions taking place in India**
 - **World's most extensive public information infrastructure** being built in India having a unique digital identity, efficient payment infrastructure.

- **Use of digital technology for governance**, inclusion, empowerment, connectivity, delivery of benefits and welfare in India.
- India has the **world's third largest and fastest growing Start-up-Ecosystem**.
- **Massive digital transformation in industry and services sectors**, even agriculture.
- Efforts for developing **indigenous capabilities in telecom technology** such as 5G and 6G.
- Giving a roadmap for democracies to work together, **emphasis was put on creating standards and norms for data governance** and for cross-border flow that protect and secure data.
 - In a democracy, **data is considered a national resource** and is important for transparent policy making and problem solving.
 - Also, **access to data should be democratised** to prevent data monopolisation and check unfair practices.

- India and digital sovereignty**
- **India's digital sovereignty vision has three pillars:**
 - A push to **leverage data as a key tool of economic growth and development** by asserting regulatory oversight over the practices of multinational private actors;
 - A domestic push backed by a global diplomatic gambit to **prevent the inequitable construction of digital trade rules;**
 - Leveraging of **data security in bilateral security disputes.**
- Steps taken in India**
- **Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019** that seeks to provide for protection of personal data of individuals and establishes a Data Protection Authority for the same.
 - **RBI directions to all system providers** to ensure that entire data relating to payment systems operated by them is stored in a system only in India.

9.7. OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

East Asia Summit (EAS)	<p>Prime Minister (PM) participates in 16th East Asia Summit (EAS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● About EAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EAS is a unique Leaders-led forum of 18 countries of the Asia-Pacific region formed to further the objectives of regional peace, security and prosperity. ○ Members: Ten ASEAN Member States (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam), Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and USA. ● India has been a member of EAS since its inception at Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) in 2005.
Developing Country Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● UN General Assembly graduated three nations (Bangladesh, Nepal and Lao) from least developed country (LDC) category to the developing country grouping. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LDCs are those that suffer from severe structural impediments to achieve sustainable development. ● Membership is revised every three years based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gross national income (GNI) per capita (\$1222 or above) ○ Human assets Index (66 or above) ○ Economic vulnerability Index (32 or below). ● Graduation thresholds must be met for any two of the three criteria in two consecutive triennial reviews. <p>Related News</p> <p>Recently, China got the 'developing country' status at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● China's status as a 'developing country' at the WTO has become a contentious issue since China is deriving benefits reserved for developing countries under WTO norms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ China is an upper middle-income country. ○ Further, China allegedly uses unfair trade practices such as preferential treatment for state enterprises and data restrictions ● Therefore, many nations have called on China to either refrain from seeking benefits available to developing countries or forego its classification as a developing country. ● Developing country status at WTO: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are no WTO definitions of "developed" and "developing" countries. ○ Members announce for themselves whether they are "developed" or "developing" countries. ○ However, other members can challenge the decision of a member to make use of provisions available to developing countries. ● Benefits of claiming Developing countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developing countries enjoy special rights through 'special and differential treatment' (S&DT) provisions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WTO pacts set more lenient target for developing nations and grant them more time to achieve certain targets. It allows other countries to offer preferential treatment like Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). <p>GSP is a non-reciprocal preferential tariff system which provides for exemption from the Most Favored Nation principle of WTO.</p>
Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM₃)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India Participates in the 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM₃) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASM₃, jointly organised by Iceland and Japan, is the first Ministerial meeting being held in Asia to highlight the value of Arctic science research conducted by non-Arctic States. ASM₁ and ASM₂ were held in the USA in 2016 and Germany in 2018, respectively. Objective: To provide opportunities to various stakeholders, including academia, indigenous communities, governments and policymakers, to enhance collective understanding of the Arctic region, emphasize and engage in constant monitoring, and strengthen observations. India would deploy open ocean mooring in the Arctic for long-term monitoring of upper ocean variables and marine meteorological parameters. India also plans to launch NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite by 2023, a joint ISRO-NASA mission, for global observations over all land masses including Polar cryo-sphere and Indian Ocean region.
Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, India joined CPLP as Associate Observer. CPLP, also known as the Lusophone Commonwealth, is an association of Lusophone nations across four continents, where Portuguese is an official language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members: Brazil, Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, and Timor-Leste. Main objectives of CPLP includes political and diplomatic coordination; cooperation in all areas; and promotion and diffusion of the Portuguese language.
Troika Plus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a group of Pakistan, China, Russia and the United States, that met recently in Islamabad. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It discussed the Afghanistan's mounting banking crisis, and warned of possible economic collapse and a humanitarian disaster that could fuel a new refugee crisis. Similar talk- on Afghanistan, was being hosted by the Russia with India, Iran and five other central Asian Countries.
Henley Passport Index	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Index lists the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is released by Henley & Partners, a global leader in residence and citizenship planning. India's passport power has improved this quarter compared to 2021. It now ranks 83rd (90th rank last year). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan and Singapore top the index.
India-Denmark summit held	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the summit two sides inked agreements that will provide for deepening of cooperation in science and technology, climate change and skill development. Both sides reviewed the progress made under the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership (GSP) that India and Denmark forged after a virtual summit in September 2020. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSP is to advance political cooperation, expand economic relations and green growth, create jobs and strengthen cooperation on addressing global challenges. Both sides also welcomed the detailed 5-year Action Plan (2021-2026) for GSP.
International Cooperation and Convention Centre- Rudraksh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, India's PM inaugurated the Convention Centre in Varanasi, one of 5 areas of Kyoto-Varanasi partnership under the Sister City Cooperation. The Centre will be a cultural hub and a medium to unite different people. In 2015, India and Japan signed an agreement on Sister City Cooperation, of which the Kyoto-Varanasi partnership was a part. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under it, 5 areas were identified on which the Japanese will extend their expertise to help rejuvenate the holy city of Varanasi. Kobe-Ahmedabad are also sister-cities.

9.8. PLACES IN NEWS



SN	Place	Detailed Map
1.	<p>Tigray, Africa</p> <p>With increased atrocities from Ethiopia in Tigray region, USA has imposed restrictions on economic and security assistance to Ethiopia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a city in Ethiopia. The region is drained by the Tekeze and Gash (Mareb) rivers. To the east lies the Denakil Plain, including the Kobar Sink. 	

<p>2. Mali (Capital: Bamako), Africa Recently, Mali suffered a coup when its transitional President and Prime Minister were arrested by military.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Niger River flows through its interior, functioning as the main trading and transport artery in the country. 	
<p>3. Kingdom of Eswatini, Africa Recently, protests against King Mswati III turned violent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Previously known as the Kingdom of Swaziland, Eswatini is a landlocked country in the eastern flank of South Africa where it adjoins Mozambique. 	
<p>4. Gambia (Capital: Banjul), Africa India, Gambia signed MoU to strengthen and promote cooperation in personnel administration and governance reforms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is situated on the Atlantic coast and surrounded by the neighbouring country of Senegal. ● It occupies a long narrow strip of land that surrounds the Gambia River. ● The Gambia is Africa's smallest non island country. 	

<p>5. Tripoli, Africa Riots in Libya leaves more than two dozen people injured in the northern city of Tripoli.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tripoli is capital city of Libya. Situated in northwestern Libya along the Mediterranean coast, it is the country's largest city and chief seaport. 	
<p>6. Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) A US\$ 4 Billion grand hydropower project planned by Ethiopia on Blue Nile to generate electricity is disputed by Sudan and Egypt because of their high dependence on Nile Water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once fully operational, the Dam can risk the High Aswan Dam water levels, which is considered as the lifeline of Egypt. 	
<p>7. Tunisia (Capital: Tunis), Africa Recently, the President of Tunisia suspended Parliament over nationwide protests on economic troubles and handling of COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The highest mountain is Mount Chambi (Al-Sha'nabi). • Majardah River is the major river that flows through the country. 	

<p>8.</p>	<p>Darfur region Sudan will hand long-time autocrat Omar al-Bashir to the International Criminal Court along with other officials wanted over the Darfur conflict.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Darfur region lies in the western part of the Sudan, near the borders with Libya, Chad, and Central African Republic. The capital, Khartoum, is in the north-eastern part of the country. 	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Morocco (Capital: Rabat), Africa Recently, Israel opened its diplomatic mission in Morocco as part of normalizing relations under “Abraham Accords”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a major economy in North Africa and part of the Maghreb league. Ibn Battuta, a Moroccan scholar traveled from Morocco to India in 14th century. 	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Zambia (Capital: Lusaka), Africa Recently, Zambia opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema defeated incumbent to become President of the nation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zambia is a landlocked and politically stable country of Africa, located on the South-Central plateau. Named after River Zambezi, it is home to Victoria Falls, 20 National Parks (e.g. Kafue National Park) with rich biodiversity. It is the second largest copper producer of Africa (after DR Congo). 	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Guinea (Capital: Conakry), Africa A military coup in Guinea dissolved the government of the day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The country is a part of western Africa and is located on the Atlantic coast. River Gambia and the Niger are the prominent river bodies. 	

12. **Somalia (Capital: Mogadishu), Africa**
 Recently, Somalia President suspended its Prime Minister, a step which will further escalate tension in the nation

- Somalia is the **easternmost** country of Africa, lying in northeastern Africa, on the **Horn of Africa** Peninsula with the **equator** passing through southern Somalia.



13. **Burkina Faso (Capital: Ouagadougou), Africa**
 Burkina Faso witnessed a military takeover recently.

- **Political boundaries:**
 - **Landlocked country** in western Africa.
 - It is a **former French colony** and gained independence as Upper Volta in 1960.



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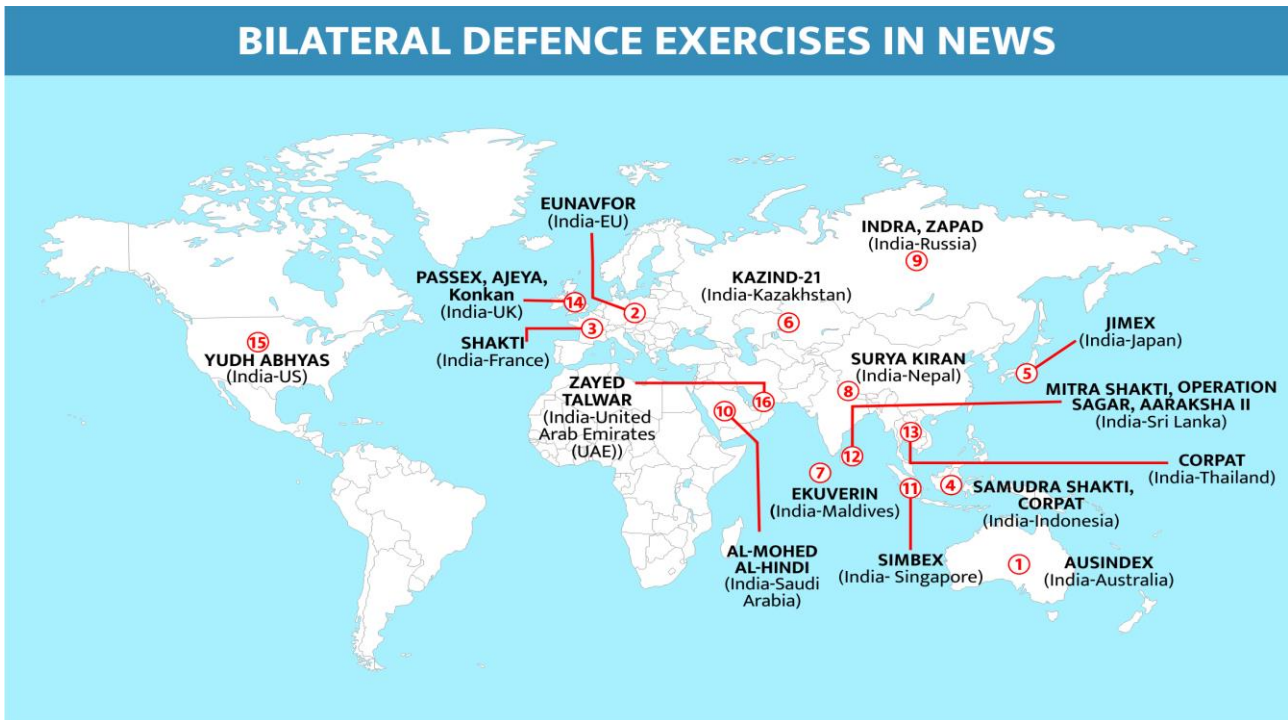
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10. MILITARY/NAVAL EXERCISES OF INDIA IN NEWS

BILATERAL DEFENCE EXERCISES IN NEWS



Important Multilateral Exercises		
S.No.	Countries Involved	Name of Exercise
1.	All Indian Ocean littoral states and countries from Southeast Asia	Exercise Milan
2.	12 Eastern African countries, US, UK, India and various international organisations like International Maritime Organisation, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Interpol etc. participated along the East Coast of Africa.	Exercise Cutlass Express 2021
3.	U.S. Navy-led Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) military exercise to foster enhanced cooperation between Southeast Asian countries.	Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT)
4.	US, Japan, Australia and India	Malabar Exercise
5.	Maldives, India, and Sri Lanka	Dosti
6.	India, Singapore and Thailand	STIMEX
7.	Iran, Russia, and China	CHIRU-2Q22

Other important exercises and operations	
PANEX-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PANEX-21 is Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise, It held in Pune with participation from BIMSTEC countries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand and India
Sagar shakti exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the 'mega multi-agency military exercise' conducted in Kutch to test India's combat readiness. It was organised, in Kutch, by the Indian Army's Southern Command. It witnessed participation of the Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Indian Coast Guard, Border Security Force, Gujarat Police and the Marine Police.
Operation SarpVinash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing operation against militants holed up high in the Poonch ridges in Jammu is the longest in the area since operation SarpVinash. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was a counterterrorism operation that was carried out in 2003. Operation took place in the Surankote area of the PirPanjal Range that separates the Kashmir valley from Jammu. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target of these operations was a place called Hilkaka.
Exercise Peaceful Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCO exercise to foster close relations between SCO Member States and to enhance abilities of the military leaders to command multinational military contingents

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JABALPUR | JAIPUR | JAMMU | JAMSHEDPUR | JHANSI | JODHPUR | JORHAT | KANPUR | KOCHI | KOHIMA | KOLKATA | KOTA | KOZHIKODE (CALICUT) | KURNOOL
KURUKSHETRA | LUCKNOW | LUDHIANA | MADURAI | MANGALURU | MATHURA | MEERUT | MORADABAD | MUMBAI | MUZAFFARPUR | MYSURU | NAGPUR | NASIK
NAVI MUMBAI | NOIDA | ORAI | PANAJI (GOA) | PANIPAT | PATIALA | PATNA | PRAYAGRAJ (ALLAHABAD) | PUNE | RAIPUR | RAJKOT | RANCHI | ROHTAK | ROORKEE
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