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Current Affairs, with Test (Class - 3)



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India Joins ARIN-AP Steering Committee; to assume presidency and host annual general meeting in 2026

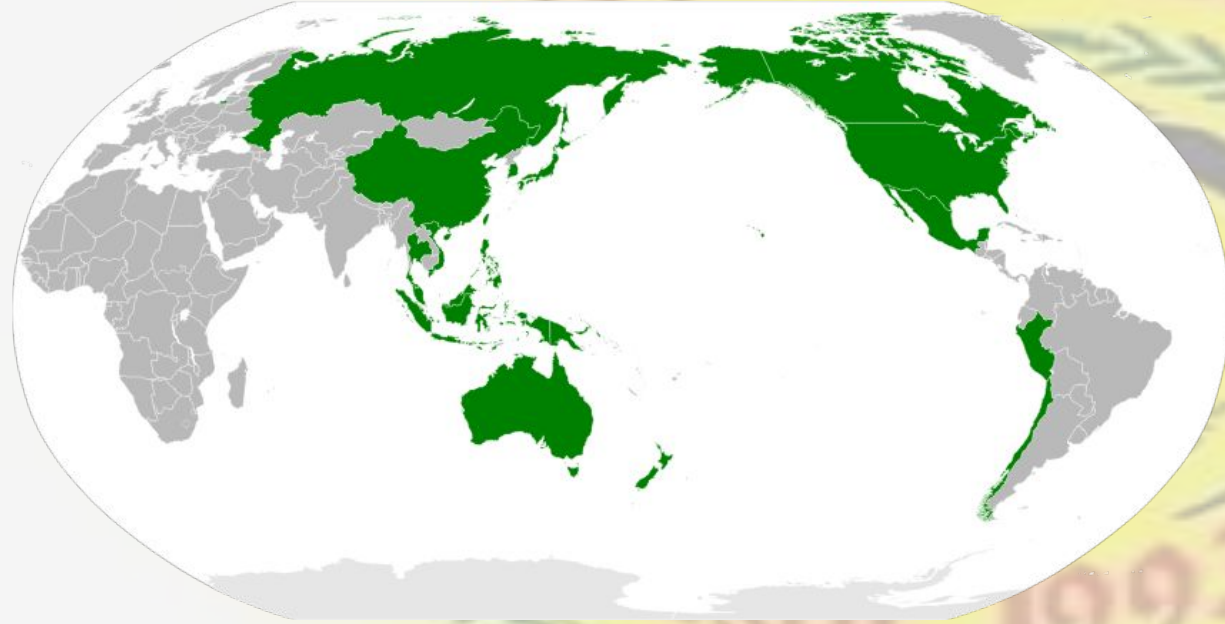
ARIN-AP is a prominent multi-agency network dedicated to tackling the proceeds of crime in the Asia-Pacific region

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THE HINDU BUREAU

Asset Recovery Interagency Network Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP)

- **What it is:** A network of countries in the **Asia-Pacific region** working together to recover stolen assets and combat financial crime.
- **India's Role:** India (represented by the **Directorate of Enforcement**) now has a leadership role in ARIN-AP as a member of its Steering Committee.



Asset Recovery Interagency Network Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP)

- **How it Works:**
 - Each country has a designated contact point.
 - These contact points communicate with each other through a central Secretariat in South Korea.
- **Goals:**
 - Make it easier to recover money stolen through crimes like corruption and money laundering.
 - Share information quickly between countries.
 - Train officials in the best ways to recover assets.
- **Members:** 28 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including India.



Keyword of the Day

Escalation ladder: On conflict between Israel and Iran

Iran should show **strategic restraint**; and the world should rein in Israel

Strategic Restraint

Strategic restraint is a policy approach where a nation deliberately limits its use of power or military force, even when capable, to avoid escalation, maintain stability, or pursue diplomatic solutions.

Examples:

- ✓ India, according to some analysts, has earned a sobriquet of 'soft state' due to its policy of 'strategic restraint'.
- ✓ For stability in West Asia, Iran and Israel should practise strategic restraint instead of disproportionate retaliation.



One Nation, One Election

Why in the News?

- The Union Cabinet has accepted the recommendations of the High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections, led by former President Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

What Are Simultaneous Elections?

- Simultaneous Elections, also known as "One Nation, One Election," propose holding elections to the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and local bodies (Municipalities and Panchayats) at the same time.
- Voting does not necessarily happen on a single day nationwide.
- India conducted simultaneous elections in 1951-52, 1957, 1962, and 1967. This cycle was interrupted due to early dissolution of assemblies and the Lok Sabha in the late 1960s and early 1970s.



Need for Simultaneous Elections

1. **Governance & Development**
 - Frequent elections disrupt development due to the Model Code of Conduct.
 - Impacts economic growth, investment, and key decisions.
 - Reduces interruptions caused by migrant workers needing time off to vote.
2. **Cost Savings:** Reduces high expenses of conducting separate elections.
3. **Human Resource Efficiency:** Frees up security and electoral staff (e.g., teachers, law enforcement) for regular duties.
4. **Judicial Relief:** Fewer elections reduce election-related disputes, lessening court burdens.
5. **Reduced Identity Politics:** Fewer elections minimize political divides based on caste, class, etc.
6. **Boosting Voter Participation:** Lessens "voter fatigue" and may increase turnout.

“Elections have become the root cause of corruption in the country. After winning elections, the politician-bureaucrat nexus indulges in **“recovering the investment”** and that is where corruption begins”

— Dr. S. Y. Quraishi,
former Chief Election Commissioner



Key Recommendations of the High-Level Committee

1. Election Synchronization

- Two phases of elections:
 - **Phase 1:** Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.
 - **Phase 2:** Local body elections (within 100 days of general elections).

2. Constitutional Amendments

- Amend Articles 83, 172, and other sections to allow a synchronized cycle.
- Article 82A specifies aligned terms for assemblies and Lok Sabha.
- Requires state ratification for local body changes.

3. **Single Electoral Roll:** Unified electoral roll for national, state, and local elections, requiring state ratification.

4. Implementation and Logistics

- Election Commission of India (ECI) to manage equipment, personnel, and security.
- State Election Commissions to coordinate for local bodies with ECI.
- Establishment of an Implementation Group for monitoring.

Committees recommended for simultaneous elections



**170th Report of Law
Commission of
India, 1999**



**National Commission
to Review the Working
of the Constitution,
2002**



**Parliamentary
standing
committee report, 2015**



**Working Paper of
NITI AAYOG in 2017**

Challenges and Complexities

1. **Overshadowing Regional Issues:** National issues could overshadow state-specific concerns.
2. **Impact on Regional Parties:** National parties might dominate, affecting the relevance of regional parties.
3. **Political Accountability:** Regular elections ensure accountability; fixed terms may weaken this.
4. **Federalism Concerns:** State legislative terms can be amended without state ratification, reducing states' influence.
5. **Logistical Demands:** Requires extensive resources, EVMs, trained personnel, and security planning.

Conclusion

Balancing the efficiency of simultaneous elections with democratic principles, federalism, and political diversity is essential. Detailed legislative deliberations are necessary to address these challenges effectively.



Agripreneurs

Agripreneurs are individuals who apply entrepreneurial principles to the agriculture sector, using innovative methods, technologies, and business strategies to improve productivity, add value, and achieve sustainable profits in farming and related activities.

Significance: This shift from being an agriculturist to an agripreneur can lead to increased income, employment generation, improved market access, and sustainable agricultural practices.

Agriculturists to Agripreneurs



In a first for India, Darjeeling Zoo's Red Panda programme among top 3 finalists for World Association of Zoos and Aquariums conservation award

The winner will be announced at the 79th WAZA Annual Conference at Taronga Zoo, Sydney, Australia on November 7.

Red Panda

- Physical characteristics
- Habitat and range
- Behaviour and diet
- Conservation status
- Cultural significance



Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Darjeeling's Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoo's Red Panda Program Selected as Finalist for 2024 WAZA Conservation Award

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoo Strengthens Conservation with Biobanking Facility to Preserve Red Panda Genetic Resources for Future

Posted On: 07 OCT 2024 8:50PM by PIB Delhi

Red Panda Conservation Breeding and Augmentation Programme of Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling has been shortlisted as one of the top three finalists by World Association of Zoos and Aquariums for the 2024 WAZA Conservation & Environmental Sustainability Awards. Winner will be announced at 79th WAZA Annual Conference at Taronga Zoo, Sydney, Australia on 7th Nov 2024. Between 2022 and 2024, nine captive-bred red pandas (seven females and two males) were

Darjeeling Zoo's Red Panda Programme

World Association of
Zoos and Aquariums

Central Zoo Authority

Operation Chakra III

- **What it is:** A global operation led by India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to fight cybercrime.
- **Goal:** To stop organized groups that use the internet to commit financial crimes.
- **Partners:** CBI is working with Interpol and the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
- **Latest Success (Phase 3):** Took down a cybercrime network that used virtual assets (like cryptocurrency) and gold to hide its illegal activities.
- **How it Works:** Operation Chakra has happened in phases:
 - Phase 1: 2022
 - Phase 2: 2023
 - Phase 3: Currently underway



INS Arighat: India's New Nuclear Submarine

- **What it is:** India just added a second nuclear-powered submarine with ballistic missiles (SSBN) to its navy, called INS Arighat. This means it can launch nuclear missiles from underwater.
- **Why it matters:**
 - **Stronger Defense:** Arighat is part of India's "nuclear triad" — the ability to launch nuclear weapons from land, air, and sea. This makes India's defense much stronger.
 - **Safer:** Because India has a "no first use" policy for nuclear weapons, this submarine helps ensure India can retaliate if attacked.
 - **Strategic Importance:** This submarine gives India more power in the Indian Ocean, especially considering its neighbors, China and Pakistan, also have nuclear weapons.
 - **Made in India:** Arighat was designed and built in India, which is a big step towards India's goal of becoming more self-reliant in defense.

More details about India's nuclear submarines:

- **Arihant-class:** Both INS Arihant (commissioned in 2016) and INS Arighat belong to this class. They are made in India under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project.
- **Missiles:** These submarines can carry powerful missiles like the K-4 (range over 3,500 km) and the K-15 (range around 750 km).
- **Other Submarines:** India also has a leased Akula-class nuclear-powered attack submarine from Russia. This type of submarine is used for different missions than the Arihant-class.

INS Arighat



Nuclear-capable submarine-launched missiles

K-4 (in development)
Range: **3,500km**

K-15 Sagarika
Range: **750km**



ARIHANT-CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

Length	110 metres
Displacement	6,000 tonnes
Crew	95
Surface speed	15 knots (28km/h)
Submerged speed	24 knots (44km/h)

INS ARIHAT: Indian Navy's second indigenously-designed and built Arihant-class submarine

Six 533mm torpedo tubes



Propulsion

80MW nuclear pressurised water reactor drives steam turbine

Vertical launch tubes

Can carry 12 K-15 (three per tube) or four K-4 missiles

www.civildaily.com

INDIA'S SUBMARINE FLEET

Nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBN): **2**



INS Arihant *INS Arighat*

Nuclear attack submarine (SSN): **1**



INS Chakra

Diesel-electric submarines (SSK): **14**

Kalvari-class (2)

Shishumar-class (4)

Sindhughosh-class (8)



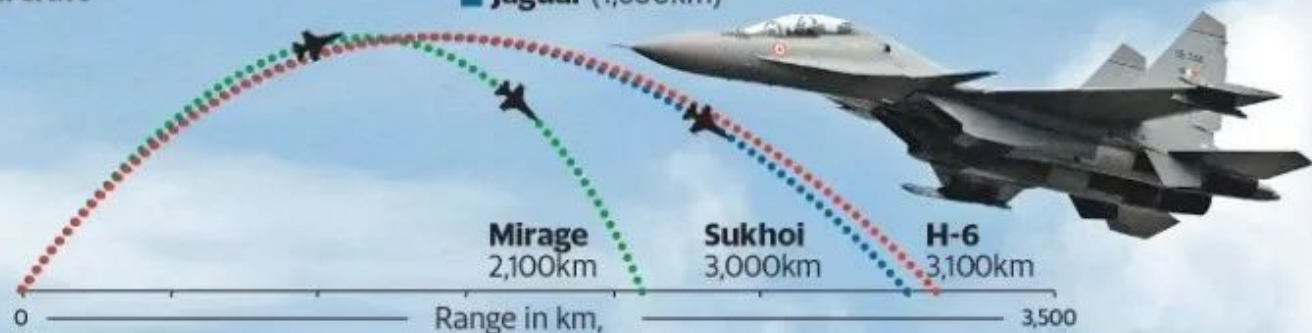
LETHAL WEAPONS

How India stacks up vis-à-vis China and Pakistan in terms of nuclear weapons delivery systems:

■ India ■ China ■ Pakistan

Aircraft

■ Sukhoi (3,000km) ■ Mirage (2,100km) ■ H-6 (3,100km)
■ Mirage 2000H (1,850km) ■ F-16 (1,600km)
■ Jaguar (1,600km)



Land-based ballistic missiles

■ Prithvi-II (250km)
■ Agni I-V (700–5,200km)
■ DF Series (600–12,000 km)
■ Abdali (200km)
■ Ghaznavi (290km)
■ Shaheen-I (750km)
■ Shaheen-IA (900km)
■ Shaheen-II (1,500km)
■ Shaheen-III (2,750km)
■ Ghauri (1,250km)
■ Nasr (60-70km)
■ Ababeel (2,200km)

Sea-based ballistic missiles

■ Dhanush (400km)
■ K-15 (Sagarika) (700km)
■ K-4 (3,500km)
■ JL-2 (>7,000km)

Cruise missiles

■ Babur series (350-700km)

Nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine

■ Arihant
■ Type 094



Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute





Nuclear Triad

India's Nuclear Triad: Keeping the Country Safe

- **What it is:** India has nuclear weapons that can be launched from land, sea, and air. This is called a "nuclear triad."
- **Why it matters:**
 - **Strong defense:** If one part of the triad is attacked, the others can still be used to retaliate. This makes it very risky for any country to attack India with nuclear weapons.
 - **Peace through strength:** Having a strong nuclear triad helps prevent war by making other countries think twice before attacking.
 - **Independence:** India can make its own decisions about its security without relying on other countries.

How it works:

- **Land:** Missiles launched from silos (underground bunkers). These are fast and hard to stop. Examples: Agni-V, Prithvi.
- **Sea:** Missiles launched from submarines. These are hidden underwater and very hard to find. Examples: INS Arihant, INS Arighat.
- **Air:** Bombs and missiles carried by fighter jets. These are flexible and can be used in different ways. Examples: Sukhoi Su-30MKI, Rafale.

Challenges:

- **Sea:** India needs more submarines to keep them at sea all the time. Also, some missiles have a shorter range.
- **Air:** India still relies on other countries for some of its fighter jets.
- **Land:** India needs to develop even more advanced missile technology.

Important Notes:

- India has a "no first use" policy, meaning it will only use nuclear weapons in retaliation.
- The Strategic Forces Command controls India's nuclear weapons.

Quad launches maritime and health initiatives, adopts strong language on aggression

A Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI), to train Quad partners “to monitor and secure their waters, enforce their laws, and deter unlawful behaviour” was also announced. India will host the first MAITRI workshop in 2025

Updated - September 22, 2024 01:03 pm IST - Wilmington, Delaware

Quad Wilmington Declaration: Working Together for a Better Indo-Pacific

- **What happened:** The leaders of the Quad countries (Australia, India, Japan, and the US) met in Wilmington, USA.
- **Their goal:** To make the Indo-Pacific region more open, stable, and inclusive. They want to work together for the good of the whole world.



- **What they agreed to do:**
 - **Fight cancer:** Work together to reduce cases of cervical cancer in the Indo-Pacific.
 - **Improve ports:** Build better and more environmentally friendly ports in the region.
 - **Secure technology:** Make sure important computer chips are always available.
 - **Space cooperation:** India will help Mauritius monitor the weather from space.
 - **Safer seas:** Train countries in the Indo-Pacific to better understand what's happening at sea.
 - **Joint naval exercises:** Quad countries will work together to improve safety at sea.
- **Next meeting:** India will host the next Quad summit in 2025.

