

GS Paper 2

International Relations

G7

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What is Group of Seven (G7)?

- The Group of Seven (G-7) is an intergovernmental organization made up of the world's largest developed economies: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada. Government leaders of these countries meet periodically to address international economic and monetary issues, with each member taking over the presidency on a rotating basis.



Genesis

1973 Oil crisis----Informal meeting of the Finance Ministers of France, West Germany, the US, Great Britain and Japan (Group of Five).

1976---Canada joined the group.

1977--- European Union (EU) began attending the meetings.

1997---Russia joined the group. It was called the G8

2014---It returned to being called G7 when Russia was expelled as a member following the latter's annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine.

- The EU is sometimes considered to be a de-facto eighth member of the G-7 since it holds all the rights and responsibilities of full members except to chair or host meetings.
- All the G7 countries and India are a part of G20.
- The G-7 is not an official, formal entity and, therefore, has no legislative or authoritative power to enforce the recommended policies and plans it compiles.

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Recent Context

June 2022--- 48th G7 summit in Germany

Argentina, India, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa to the G7 were invited at G7 summit by German Presidency.

May 2023---49th G7 Summit in Japan

This year's G7 meetings are hosted by the bloc's only Asian member.

India along with Australia, Cook Islands, Brazil, Vietnam and Indonesia attended the summit this year.

19-21 May 2023---G7 summit, Hiroshima, Japan

The main issues addressed during the Summit:

1) Russia's aggression against Ukraine

The G7 once again condemned in the strongest possible terms the war of aggression by Russia against Ukraine. The G7 leaders announced further measures to financially cripple Russia and increase costs to those who are supporting its war effort. They will:

- Ensure that exports of all items critical to Russia's war machine are restricted across all G7 jurisdictions.
- Take action to further prevent the evasion and circumvention of measures against Russia.
- Curtail Russia's use of the international financial system, including by preventing third-country branches of Russian banks from being used to avoid sanctions.
- Take steps to limit Russia's revenue from energy and metals.
- Work together to restrict trade in and use of diamonds mined, processed or produced in Russia.

2) Disarmament and non-proliferation

- The G7 leaders repeated the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation efforts to create a more stable and safer world.
- They reiterated that threats by Russia to use nuclear weapons against Ukraine are inadmissible.

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3) Global economy, Finance and Sustainable Development

The G7 leaders affirmed their commitment to fostering together a strong and resilient global economic recovery.

The G7 countries will:

- Promote jobs, sustainable growth and prosperity for all
- Make supply chains more resilient and reliable
- Uphold international rules and norms in order to facilitate trade
- Increase their collective preparedness and response to economic coercion

The G7 leaders stand ready to take appropriate action to maintain financial stability and the resilience of the global financial system.

The G7 leaders also stressed the importance of narrowing the infrastructure investment gap in low- and middle-income partner countries.

They reaffirmed their shared commitment to mobilising up to \$600 billion by 2027 for the G7 partnership for global infrastructure and investment.

4) Climate change, Energy and Environment

The G7 leaders recognised the critical role of all major economies in limiting increases in global temperature over this and subsequent decades.

They remain steadfast in their commitment to :

- keeping within the threshold of a 1.5°C increase in global temperature.
- halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030
- ensuring energy security.

The G7 countries will engage with developing and emerging countries to speed up emission reduction and support their just energy transitions.

5) Food Security and Health

The G7 leaders remain deeply concerned by the ongoing and worsening global food security and nutrition situation, aggravated by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

In order to guarantee grain exports from Ukraine and a stable supply to those in need, the G7 leaders reaffirmed the importance of:

- the EU-Ukraine solidarity lanes.
- President Zelenskyy's 'Grain from Ukraine' initiative
- the continued and scaled-up implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI).

G7 leaders are also determined to invest in global health through:

- Vaccine manufacturing capacity worldwide
- the Pandemic Fund
- The future international agreement for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response
- Efforts to achieve universal health coverage

6) Engagement with international partners

The Japanese presidency of the G7 invited leaders from Australia, Brazil, the Comoros, the Cook Islands, India, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Vietnam to take part in several working sessions during the summit.

The G7 leaders stand ready to revitalise international cooperation and to work with partners to achieve a world that is human-centred and resilient, leaving no one behind.

The G7 countries are determined to:

- Support a free and open Indo-Pacific.
- Strengthen their partnerships with African countries and support greater African representation in multilateral fora.

April 2023-----

The foreign ministers of the Group of 7 nations closed a three-day meeting in Japan with a statement of unity against new assertiveness by both Russia and China.

Key Issues discussed:

1)North Korea:

- The G7 foreign ministers condemned the North Korea's April 13, 2023 test of an intercontinental ballistic missile and urged denuclearisation.
- North Korea's foreign minister Choe Son Hui issued a statement criticising the United States and other Group of Seven countries. It accused the G7 countries of illegally interfering in North Korea's internal affairs by demanding denuclearisation, saying Pyongyang will take strong action if they attempt to violate its sovereignty and fundamental interests.

2)Ukraine Russia war:

- The Group of Seven (G7) stressed their solidarity against Russia' aggression on Ukraine.
- Group of Seven (G7) countries are considering near-total ban of exports to Russia.
- The bloc's top diplomats promised "severe consequences" for any use of chemical, biological or nuclear weapons by Russia in the on-going conflict in Ukraine, and pledged that those supporting the Russia's war effort there would face "severe costs."
- In particular, they pointed to Russia's threat to deploy nuclear weapons in neighboring Belarus.

3)China:

- G7 called on China to “abstain from threats, coercion, intimidation, or the use of force” and raised “serious concerns” about the situation in the East and South China Seas -- opposing “militarization” of the South China Sea, while presenting a unified front on Taiwan.
- It was stated--- “There is no change in the basic positions of the G7 members on Taiwan, including stated one China policy. They also reaffirmed the importance of “peace and stability” across the Taiwan Strait as an “indispensable element in security and prosperity in the international community.”

4)Indo Pacific

- The bloc's foreign ministers stressed their interest in working together in the Indo-Pacific -- a region now viewed by the US as a key theatre for its competition with China.
- Japan explained its views on “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” and the New Plan for a FOIP.
- The group reiterated the importance of a “free and open Indo-Pacific” and cooperating with India .
- They reaffirmed their unwavering support for ASEAN centrality and in promoting cooperation in line with the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.
- The Ministers also reaffirmed their partnership with Pacific Island countries and reiterate the importance of supporting their priorities and needs, in accordance with the Pacific Islands Forum's 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, including through the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in 2024.

5) Other issues

- They criticised the military coup in Myanmar and an deadly April 11 , 2023 airstrike by the Myanmar military that left civilians, including children dead.
- The grouping also urged fighting parties in the recent outbreak of violence in Sudan to "end hostilities immediately," and return to negotiations.

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April 2023----G7 Ministers' Meeting on Climate, Energy, and Environment in Sapporo, Japan

- G7 has pledged to raise their offshore wind capacity by 150 GW and their solar capacity by over 1 TW through collective efforts.
- The G7 countries recognize the importance of critical minerals for high-tech industries.
- They raised concerns about supply chain vulnerability along with the social and environmental impacts of mining.
- Discussed Climate funding.
- Decarbonization of Industries (a 'Climate Club' forum proposed in 2022 for transitioning industries to climate-friendly processes and technologies. Also pledge was made to end new plastic pollution by 2040.)

India and G7

Oct 2022--- India Opposes G7's Just Energy Transition Plan

May 2023---India's participation in the G7 summit at Hiroshima provided India an opportunity to focus the attention of the world's richest nations on challenges faced by the Global South. At Hiroshima, PM Modi presented a 10-point action plan, which could go a long way in changing and improving the way the world lives. The plan calls for

- curbing food wastage,
- de-politicisation of global fertiliser supply chains,
- promoting consumption of millets,
- encouraging holistic healthcare,
- strengthening digital healthcare,
- and building development models based on the needs of developing countries.

Practice Question:

Ques/-Hiroshima G7 summit 2023 provides an opportunity for India to seize new economic possibilities. Analyse.

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Ques/- Engaging with India is imperative for the G-7. Comment

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Challenges within G7

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Way Forward

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