

GS Paper 2

International Relations

India and its Neighbourhood

Indo Pakistan Relations

Dr. Shruti Joshi

Syllabus: General Studies, Paper II, International Relations

- India and its Neighbourhood- Relations.
- Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

- **Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's interests.**
- **Indian Diaspora.**
- **Important International Institutions, agencies and fora - their Structure, Mandate.**

How to Study International Relations

Sources

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Geo Political Strategic Significance of Pakistan

1) Location

- Border Sharing
- ✓ Security Concerns



- **Gateway to Central Asia**



2) Interest of Great Power

Nature of Indo Pak Relations

Phases in Indo Pak Relations

1) Phase of Active Aggression (1947-2001)

- **1947----1st Indo Pak War**
- **1965---2nd Indo Pak War (Tashkent Agreement)**
- **1971---3rd Indo Pak War (Shimla Agreement 1972)**
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- **1980's and 1990's---**
- **1998---**
- **1999----Kargil war**
- **2001---Attack on Indian Parliament.**

2) Phase of Reconciliation (2001-2008)

- **1999---Lahore declaration**
- **Vajpayee's principle of Insaniyat (humanism), Jamhooriyat (democracy) and Kashmiriyat (Kashmir's legacy).**
- **2008----TAPI gas pipeline project.**
- **2008---Mumbai attack**

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- **2014---Neighbourhood 1st policy**

4) Phase of Renewed Aggression(From 2015)

- 2015---China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)



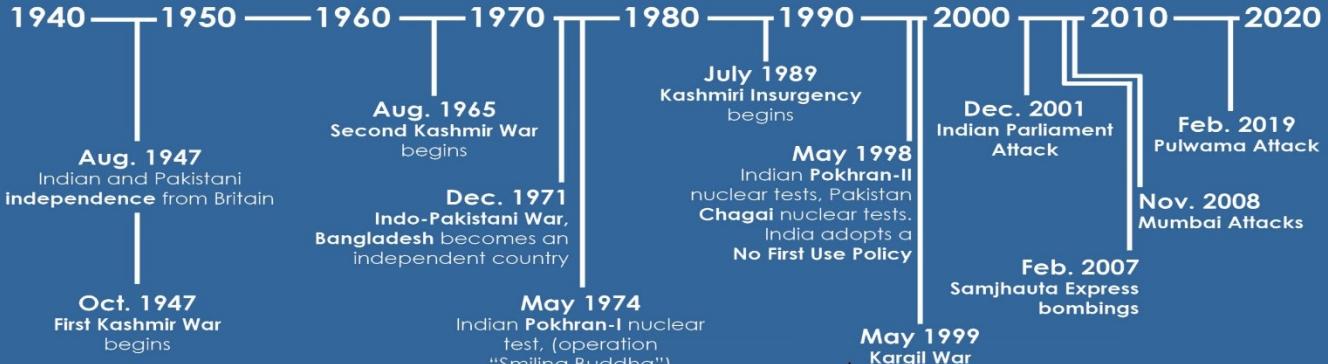
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INDIA-PAKISTAN HISTORY OF CONFLICT



Factors behind the complex bilateral ties between the two countries/ Conflict Zones between India and Pakistan/ What makes peace elusive between India-Pakistan?

1) Cross-border Terrorism

2) Trade and commerce

There are two major routes via which trade is commenced between the two countries:

- ✓ Sea Route – Mumbai to Karachi
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3) Water Dispute

Indus Waters Treaty

Why in news?

January 2023

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The notice was sent after the “contravention of the graded mechanism of dispute settlement envisaged by Article IX of the IWT.”

India is invoking Article XII (3) of the treaty to bring changes to the 1960 pact.

What is the History of the Dispute over the Hydel Projects?

- **2015**---Pakistan asked that a Neutral Expert should be appointed to examine its technical objections to the Kishanganga and Ratle HEPs.
- **2016**---Pakistan unilaterally retracted this request and proposed that a Court of Arbitration should adjudicate on its objections.
- **August 2016**--- Pakistan approached the World Bank seeking the constitution of a Court of Arbitration under the relevant dispute redressal provisions of the Treaty.

- In response, India moved a separate application asking for the appointment of a Neutral Expert. India had argued that Pakistan's request for a Court of Arbitration violated the graded mechanism of dispute resolution in the Treaty.
- March 2022, the World Bank decided to resume the process of appointing a Neutral Expert and a Chairman for the Court of Arbitration.

The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

■ The distribution of waters of the Indus and its tributaries between India and Pakistan is governed by the Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

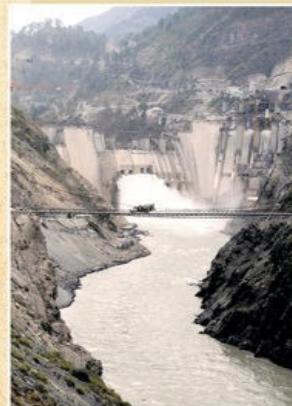
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■ Partition of India cut across the Indus river basin, which has the Indus river, plus five of its main tributaries.

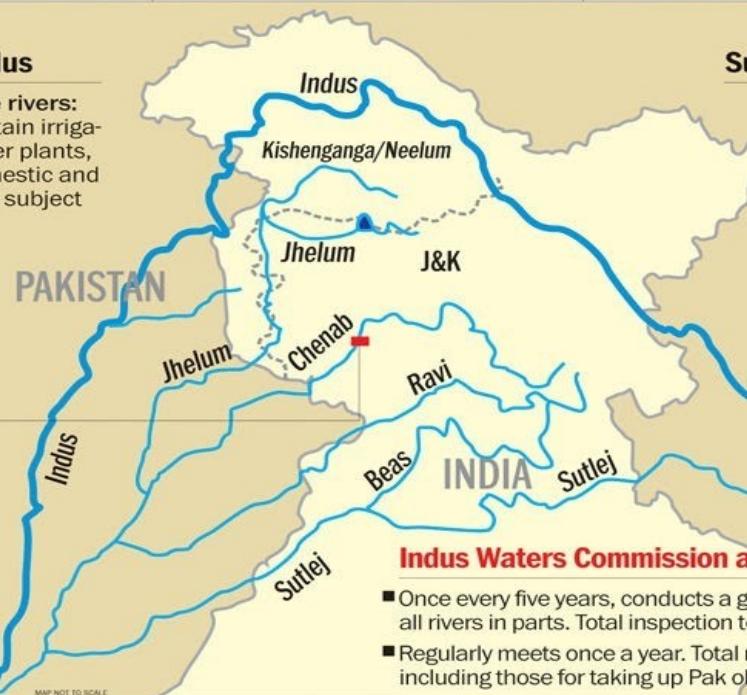
Western rivers

Chenab, Jhelum, Indus

India's rights over these rivers:
Limited — can set up certain irrigation, run-of-the-river power plants, very limited storage, domestic and non-consumptive use, all subject to conditions



Baglihar dam on Chenab



Eastern rivers

Sutlej, Beas, Ravi

India's rights over these rivers: All exclusive rights lie with India.

Indus Waters Commission a success story

- Once every five years, conducts a general inspection of all rivers in parts. Total inspection tours so far: Over 100
- Regularly meets once a year. Total meetings thus far, including those for taking up Pak objections: Over 100

Key provisions of Indus Waters Treaty

1) Equitable water-sharing

The three ‘western rivers’ (Indus, Jhelum and Chenab) went to Pakistan and the three ‘eastern rivers’ (Sutlej, Ravi and Beas) were portioned to India.

Equitable it may have seemed, but the fact remained that India conceded 80.52 per cent of the aggregate water flows in the Indus system to Pakistan.

- 2) It also required both the countries to establish a Permanent Indus Commission constituted by permanent commissioners on both sides.

- 3) While Pakistan has rights over the waters of Jhelum, Chenab and Indus, Annexure C of the IWT allows India certain agricultural uses, while Annexure D allows it to build ‘run of the river’ hydropower projects, meaning projects not requiring live storage of water.

4) Dispute Resolution Mechanism:

- The IWT provides a three-step dispute resolution mechanism under Article IX of the Indus Waters Treaty, under which “questions” on both sides can be resolved at the Permanent Commission, or can also be taken up at the inter-government level.
- In case of unresolved questions or “differences” between the countries on water-sharing, such as technical differences, either side can approach the World Bank to appoint a Neutral Expert (NE) to come to a decision.
- And eventually, if either party is not satisfied with the NE’s decision or in case of “disputes” in the interpretation and extent of the treaty, matters can be referred to a Court of Arbitration.

Analysis:

Present objections to Three Indian Hydropower projects by Pakistan: in the Chenab basin in Jammu and Kashmir-

- ✓ the 1000 Megawatt (MW) Pakal Dul project,
- ✓ the 48 MW Lower Kalnai project and
- ✓ the 624 MW Kiru project, aside from other smaller Hydropower units India wants to develop in Ladakh.

Way Forward

4) Kashmir Issue

- Issue of abrogation of Article 370**

5) Siachen Glacier

- Why is Siachen important?

Siachen Glacier



- **Historical background of the Siachen glacier issue:**

1949: Ceasefire Agreement (The ceasefire line was drawn up to a point known as **NJ 9842** on the map)

1972: This formulation was repeated in the agreement on the Line of Control in 1972, which followed the Shimla Agreement of 1971. The line beyond NJ 9842 was not demarcated on maps in 1972.

Late 1970s

1984: Operation Meghdoot

2003 : 2003 armistice treaty.

Q/- Bring out the strategic importance of Siachen Glacier for India, Pakistan and China. Though Demilitarisation is not a bad idea if the intentions of parties involved are not bad. Analyse

Ans./- Why India should pull-back from Siachen?

Arguments in favour of the demilitarisation of Siachen:

Why India should not pull-back from Siachen?

Ramifications of Demilitarization

6) Sir Creek

What is Sir Creek?

What's the importance of Sir Creek?

Sir Creek



What is the dispute?

(7) Chinese angle

The China-Pakistan axis in Asian geopolitics is often described with metaphors such as “higher than the mountains” and “deeper than the oceans”.

Chinese Angle



Why is China interested in Pakistan?

Why China is important for Pakistan?

What is the Present Status of the India-China-Pakistan Triangle?

What is CPEC?

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)



One Belt One Road Initiative



What are CPEC's Implications for India?

Mains Questions

Q. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is viewed as a cardinal subset of China's larger 'One Belt One Road' initiative. Give a brief description of CPEC and enumerate the reasons why India has distanced itself from the same. **(2018)**

Q. China and Pakistan have entered into an agreement for the development of an economic corridor. What threat does this pose for India's security? Critically examine. **(2014)**

Q. "China is using its economic relations and positive trade surplus as tools to develop potential military power status in Asia". In the light of this statement, discuss its impact on India as her neighbour. **(2017)**

What are the Implications of China-Pakistan Closeness For India?

Way Forward regarding Chinese angle in Pakistan

Major Achievements

Military CBMs

- 1) Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities was signed in 1988 and ratified in 1990. The first exchange took place on January 1, 1992. As per the Agreement, India and Pakistan exchange the list of their nuclear installations to prevent attacking each other's atomic facilities. This practise has been followed to date.
- 2) Agreement on Advance Notification on Military Exercises, Manoeuvres and Troop Movements were brought into effect in 1991 played a crucial role in deescalating the tensions on both sides of the LoC.
- 3) A communication link between Pakistan Maritime Security Agency and the Indian Coast Guard was established in 2005 to facilitate the early exchange of information.
- 4) A hotline between the Directors-General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of both the countries have been in effect since 1965

Non-military CBMs

- 1) Delhi-Lahore Bus Service was initiated in 1999. It was suspended in the aftermath of the 2001 Indian Parliament Attack. The bus service was later resumed in 2003 when bilateral relations had improved. This service was recently suspended in 2019 in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A of the Indian Constitution and continues to be suspended.

- 2) Samjhauta Express was launched following the signing of the Shimla Agreement connects the Pakistani city of Lahore and the Indian town of Attari. In 2019, it was suspended after the revocation of the special status of Kashmir.

- 3) Efforts of repatriation of Indians from Pakistan's custody and vice versa.
- 4) Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara corridor: The corridor linking Dera Baba Sahib in India's Gurdaspur with the gurdwara in Pakistan's Kartarpur was thrown open in November 2019 in a historic people-to-people initiative. It was shut down due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The corridor – often dubbed as **the “Road to Peace”** – will connect Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Kartarpur with Dera Baba Nanak shrine in India's Gurdaspur district.

Fallouts of Limited engagements

Way Forward

Conclusion

Pakistan's Economic Crisis

26th February 2023----Pakistan's government has agreed to increase the policy interest rate which stands at 17 per cent by two per cent or 200 basis points to meet another condition set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

With the new decision, Pakistan has accepted another pre-condition of the IMF for the release of USD 1.1 billion in critical funding, a part of the USD 6.5 billion bailout package.

Reasons for Pakistan Economic crisis

- **High Inflation:** Pakistan experienced a high inflation in 2022 of about 24.5%. The percentage was about 29% higher in rural Pakistan.
- **High Indebtedness**
- **Weak External Position:** Pakistan was finally taken off the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list in 2022, after being on it for many years.
- **Food Crisis:** The cost of perishable foods has increased by over 56%.
- **Rising Terrorism**

- **Low foreign exchange reserves**
- **Possible political crisis**
- **2022 floods**
- **Economic policies that are inconsistent and procyclical**
- **Local problems**

Impact of Pakistan's Economic crisis on India

- Increased Chinese influence in Pakistan
- Increasing terrorist activities
- Volatile situation in neighbourhood
- Influx of refugees
- Impact on India's export to Pakistan
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India's response to Pakistan Crisis

The bigger question is :Will India help Pakistan come out of its economic crisis?

23rd February 2023----External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar dismissed the idea of helping Pakistan to come out of its economic mess. Speaking at the annual Asia Economic Dialogue organised by the external affairs ministry, S. Jaishankar said he will consider the local public sentiment while making a big decision.

"I would have a pulse (on) what do my people feel about it. And I think you know the answer," he said.

When it comes to Pakistan, the fundamental issue impacting the New Delhi-Islamabad ties is terrorism adding that one must not be in denial of this problem.

"No country is ever going to come out of a difficult situation and become a prosperous power if its basic industry is terrorism. Just as a country has to fix its economic issues, a country has to fix its political issues too, a country has to fix its social issues," he said without naming Pakistan.

The world can only provide options and support systems, S. Jaishankar said, making it clear that Pakistan will have to make "tough choices"

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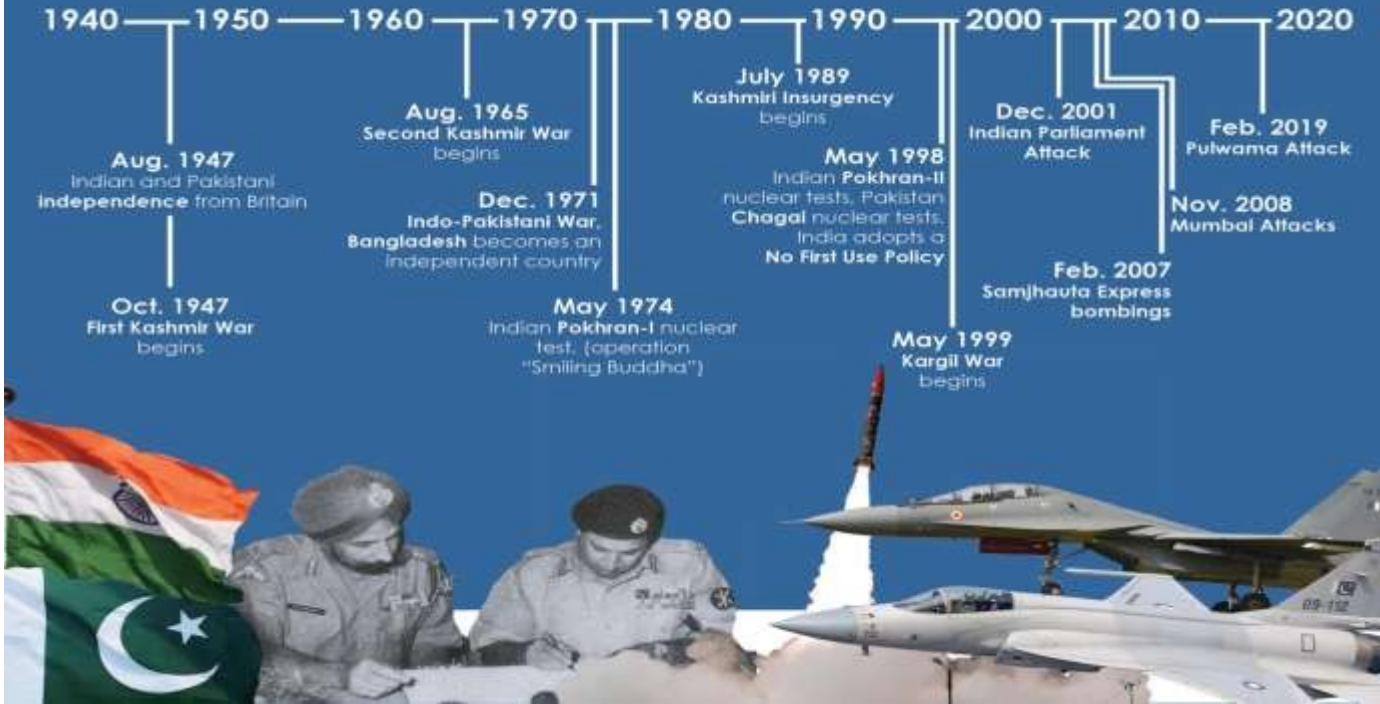
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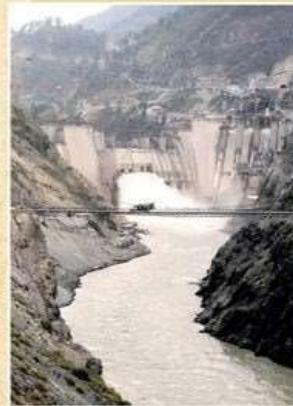
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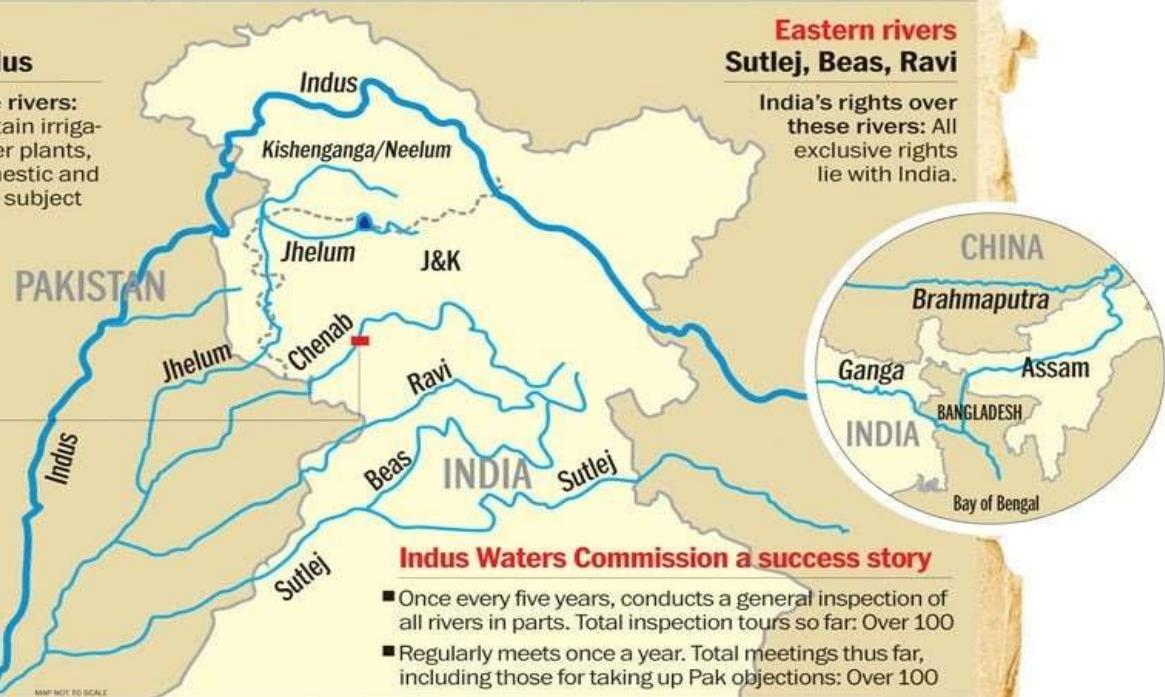
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THANKS

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Context/ Why in news?

January 2023--India, which holds the G20 Presidency this year, is following the convention of inviting non-member countries and international organisations to the summit and Bangladesh is the only South Asian country to have a place on India's guest list.

13th January 2023--Prime Minister of India flagged off the world's longest river cruise, MV Ganga Vilas in Varanasi. The cruise was scheduled to travel through 27 river systems in five Indian states and Bangladesh. This has put India and Bangladesh on the global river cruise map, opening up a new horizon and vertical for tourism and freight carriage in the Indian subcontinent.

September 2022-- Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina visited India.

February 2022: New Delhi and Dhaka met for the 7th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission (JCC).

3 Feb 2022: Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb laid the foundation stone for Kamalpur-Kurmaghat border haat between India and Bangladesh.

December 15-17 2021: President Ramnath Kovind paid a State visit to attend Bangladesh's 50th Vijay Dibos.

Year 2021- 50 years of the establishment of Indo Bangladesh diplomatic ties.

26 to 27 March 2021: PM Modi, paid a State visit to Bangladesh to join the celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of the Independence of Bangladesh, the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and 50 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Bangladesh.(Triveni of events)

Decoding Bangladesh's Socio Political fabric

- **Duality of heritage**
- **Two streams of nationhood**
- **Coherent country**
- **Two major political parties:**
 - ✓ The Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina and
 - ✓ The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) headed by Begum Khaleda Zia

Trajectory of Indo Bangladesh relations



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Bangladesh for "triple celebrations" in March 2021 has ushered in a new "**Sonali Adhyay**" (golden chapter) in multi-faceted strategic partnership between the two South Asian neighbours.

- **1971-74:** Friendly relationship
- **1974-2009:** Relationship became challenging
- **2009 onwards:** New Bonhomie

Why is Bangladesh important for India?

1) Location

- India and Bangladesh share a 4,096 km land boundary covering West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram.

2) Strategic importance

3) Important actor in India Act East policy.



4) Important role in sub regional Connectivity

5) Grid development of sub region

6) Security issues

7) Partners in various multi-lateral platforms



8) Bangladesh is one of the fastest growing economy.

9) Water sharing

10) Socio cultural connects

New Trends in India-Bangladesh Ties

Areas of cooperation

1) Border Management

(i) Land Boundary Agreement (LBA)

- India and Bangladesh share 4096.7 km. of border, which is the longest land boundary that India shares with any of its neighbours.
- Why is it in News ?

Nov 2021---Union Home Minister has said that the Northeast States will be linked by road and railway to Bangladesh in a year or two under the historic Land Boundary Agreement (LBA).

- **Background**
- ✓ Indira-Mujib pact of 1972
- ✓ 1974
- ✓ The 119th Amendment Bill 2013
- ✓ 2015
- Envisages a transfer of 111 Indian enclaves to Bangladesh in return for 51 enclaves to India.
- Implications



(ii) Security cooperation

(iii) Conversion of International Boundary along Kuhsiyara river into a fixed boundary



(iv) Facilitation of the border fencing

(2) Cooperation in Connectivity

(i) Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA)

- Why in News (March 2021)

World Bank report named “**Connecting to Thrive: Challenges and Opportunities of Transport Integration in Eastern South Asia**” stated that seamless transport connectivity between India and Bangladesh has the potential to increase national income by as much as 17% in Bangladesh and 8% in India.

BANGLADESH - BHUTAN - INDIA - NEPAL CORRIDOR



- **About BBIN**
- ✓ Signed on 15th June 2015 in Thimphu, Bhutan.
- ✓ Facilitate the unrestricted cross-border movement of cargo, passenger, and personal vehicles between BBIN countries.
- ✓ Advantages:

(ii)Protocol on land water transit and trade (PIWTT)

- **Why in News (May 2020)**
- ✓ Second Addendum to the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade was signed.
 - First signed in 1972.
 - Last renewed in 2015 for five years with a provision for its automatic renewal for a further period of five years.
- 50:50 cargo sharing by Indian and Bangladeshi vessels is permitted.
- **Includes new Indo Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) routes(increased from 8 to 10)**
 - ✓ Inclusion of Sonamura-Daudkandi stretch of Gumti river.
 - ✓ Operationalization of Rajshahi-Dhulian-Rajshahi Route and its extension up to Aricha, Bangladesh

- **Declaration of new Ports of Call**
 - ✓ A port of call is an intermediate port.
 - ✓ There were six Ports of Call each in India and Bangladesh under the Protocol.
 - ✓ Now Five new ports of call on both sides.
- **Two extended Ports of Call**

Advantages of Protocol on land water transit and trade (PIWTT)

- Improve the connectivity of Tripura and adjoining States with Indian and Bangladesh's economic centres (Inclusion of Sonamura-Daudkandi stretch of Gumti river)
- Augment infrastructure in Bangladesh (The operationalization of Rajshahi-Dhulian-Rajshahi Route and its extension up to Aricha, Bangladesh)
- Inclusion of new Port of Call like Jogighopa in India and Bahadurabad in Bangladesh will provide connectivity to Meghalaya, Assam and Bhutan.

(iii)BCIM (Bangladesh China India Myanmar corridor)

- Why in News?**

India's decision to skip the **Belt and Road Forum (BRF)** have led to the exclusion of the **Bangladesh- China- India- Myanmar (BCIM) Economic corridor** from the list of projects covered by the China-led Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) umbrella.

✓ Reason---



China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC)

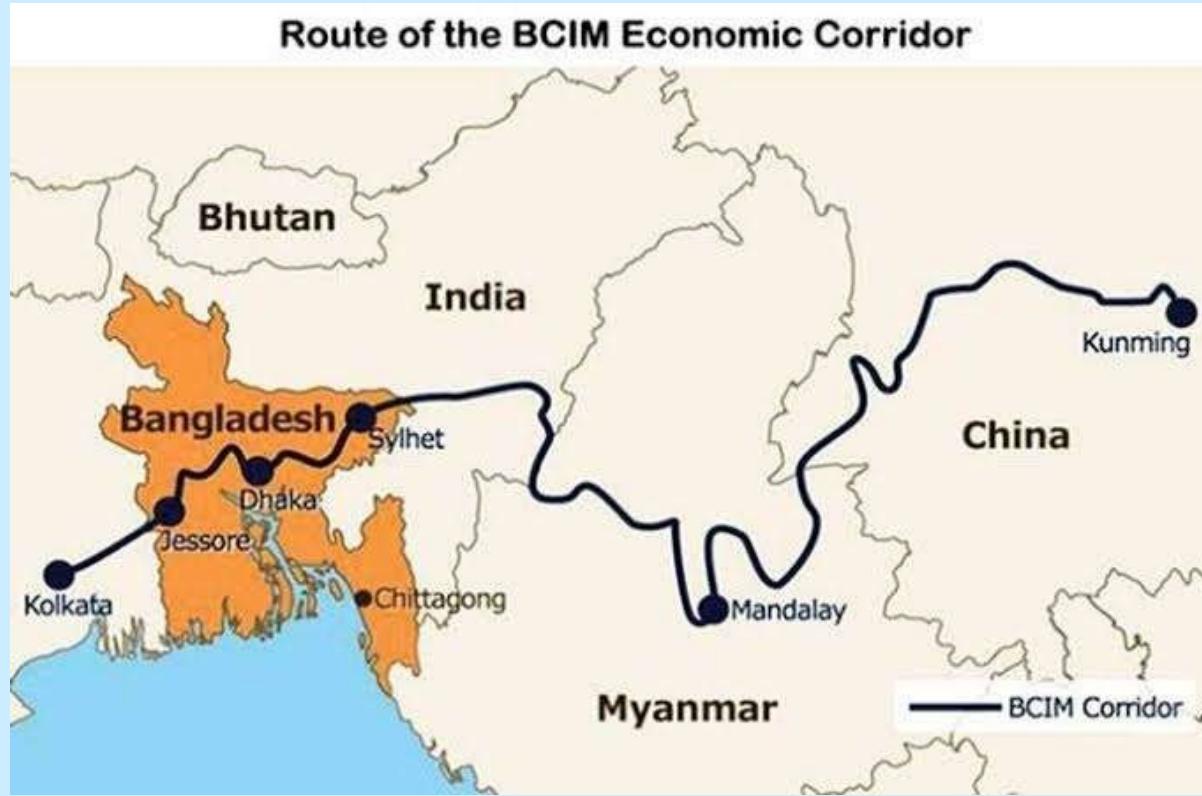


Nepal-China Trans-Himalayan Multi-dimensional Connectivity Network



China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The BCIM economic corridor aims to connect Kolkata with Kunming, capital of the Yunnan province.



Importance of BCIM

- ❖ For India
- ❖ For Bangladesh

Concerns/Challenges

Need of hour

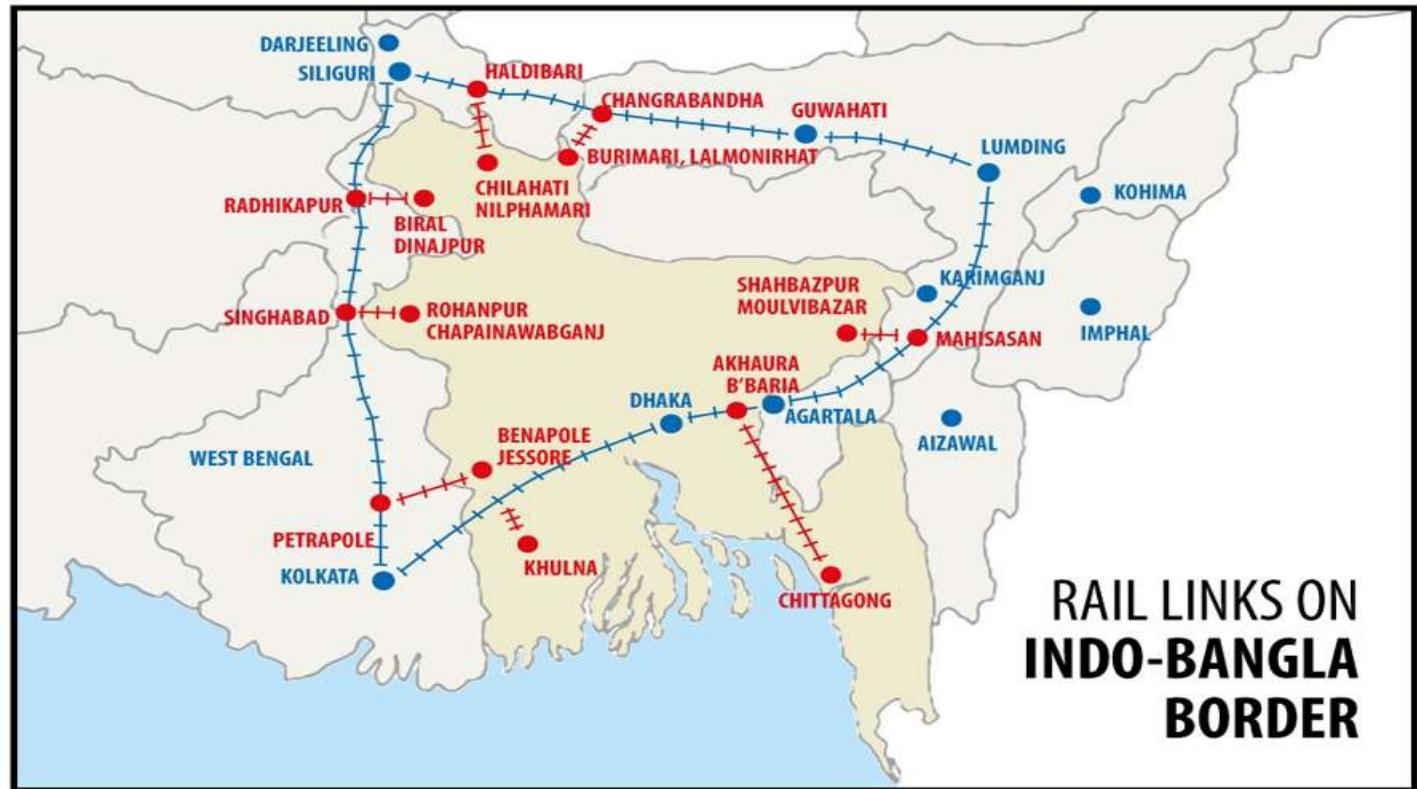
How does the development Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar (BCIM) project offer India an opportunity to create its own win-win relationship with China? Examine.

(iv) Haldibari-Chilahati rail route and Agartala-Akhaura rail line

Why in News

Aug 2021: Bangladesh and India started regular operation of freight trains through the restored Haldibari-Chilahati rail route after over 50 years.

The much-awaited Agartala-Akhaura rail line, which is 15.6 kilometres long, connecting the Northeast region of India with Bangladesh, is likely to be completed by September-end of 2022.



Significance



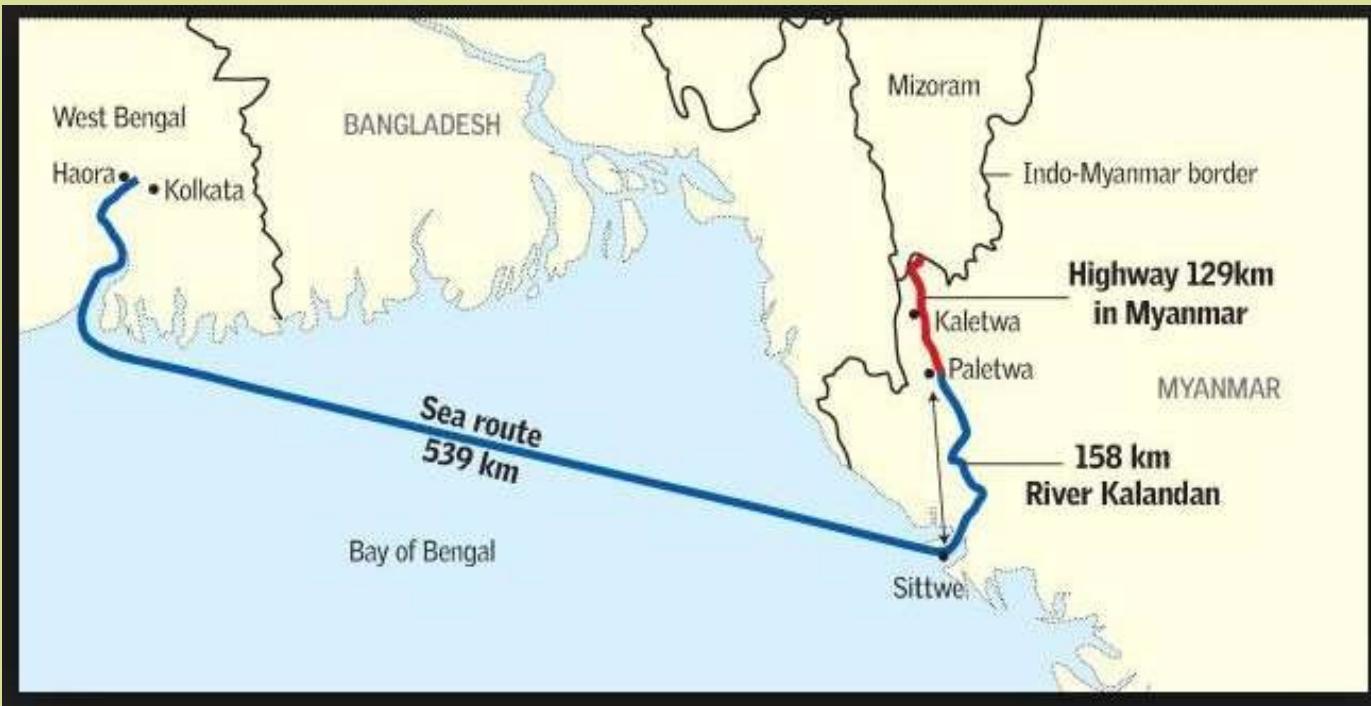
(V) Maitri SetU

- Inaugurated on 9th March 2021.
- 1.9 km land bridge connecting the North-East (NE) Indian state of Tripura and Bangladesh.
- On the transboundary Feni river shared between Bangladesh and India
- Called the Friendship Bridge.

Significance of Maitri Setu

- Alternative to the Sittwe Port-Kaladan route

Sittwe Port- Kaladan route



(vi) Bangladesh showed interest in joining India Myanmar Thailand trilateral highway project.



(vii) Temporary Air Travel Bubble signed.

2) Defence Cooperation

- Exercise Sampriti
- Exercise Milan

3) Economic Relations

4) Hydro Political Relations /Cooperation in Water Resources, Power and Energy

54 common rivers.

(i)Matri Setu

(ii)Farakka barrage

- 1951
- On river Ganga
- Aim: to flush out the silt of Bhagirathi Hoogly river to ensure smooth operationalization of Kolkata port.

Ganga Water Treaty 1996 is an agreement to share surface waters at the Farakka Barrage near their mutual border. Issue is now resolved.

(iii) Teesta Water dispute

PM Modi while on his 2 day tour of Bangladesh on March 2021 said that the deal over the Teesta and other common Rivers would be concluded soon.

TWO NATIONS, ONE RIVER

Total length: **414km**

Sikkim: **151km**

Sikkim-West Bengal boundary: **142km**

Bangladesh: **121km**

Why Teesta is important:



- for Bangladesh

According to the report of Asian Foundation in 2013, its flood plain covers about 14% of the total cropped area of Bangladesh and provides direct livelihood opportunities to approximately 73% of its population.



- For India

Teesta is the lifeline of North Bengal and almost half a dozen of districts of West Bengal are dependent on the waters of Teesta.
The negotiations on how to share the water have been going on since 1972.

1972: Joint River Commission (JRC) was established by India and Bangladesh in the Indo-Bangla Treaty of Friendship.

Water sharing in **1983** ad-hoc agreement:



I always want Bangladesh to get water. But we have a problem with the Teesta water because the water supply in the river has gone down //

Mamata Banerjee, after meeting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in April 2017 at New Delhi.

1983: Agreement on ad-hoc sharing of Teesta water. According to agreement, ad-hoc sharing is valid until 1985 end.

1998: Bangladesh started "Teesta Barrage" • Irrigation project (3 cropping seasons per year).

2011: an interim deal that was supposed to last for 15 years – gave India 42.5% and Bangladesh 37.5% of Teesta water.

- Originates in Sikkim and flows through West Bengal as well as Bangladesh.
- India claims a share of 55 percent of the river's water.
- Bangladesh wants a higher share than it gets now.
- **Bangladesh view:**
- **India's view:**

Analysis

(5) Partnership on Multilateral forums

- United Nations
- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
- Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

(6) On combating terrorism

(7) Cooperation during COVID 19 pandemic

(8) Cultural cooperation

9) New Areas of Engagement

Emerging Disputes/ Challenges

Way Forward

Conclusion

THANKS

DR. SHRUTI JOSHI

GS Paper 2

International Relations

India and its Neighbourhood

Indo-Myanmar Relations

Dr. Shruti Joshi

Why is Myanmar important for India?

1) Location

2) Critical for India's National Security Interests



Why is Myanmar important for India?

3) Confluence of Two Foreign Policy

Doctrines

4) Chinese Angle (Kyaukpyu port)

5) Power balance



Socio Political fabric of Myanmar

- Myanmar is a diverse country.
- 2/3rd of population is ethnic Burmans, known as the Bamar.
- Other ethnic minority groups like Shan, Kayin, Rakhine people, Mon, Kachin, Chin, Rohingya, Gurkha, Nepali etc.
- Anglo Indians, Overseas Chinese and Overseas Indians.
- Total 14 States or regions.



Myanmar's Troubled History

- **British Burma (1885–1948)**

- ✓ On 1 April 1937, Burma became a separately administered colony of Great Britain.

- **Independence (1948–1962)**

- ✓ 4th January 1948--- the nation became an independent republic

- **Military rule (1962–2011)**

- ✓ 1962---Military leadership staged a coup d'état.

- ✓ Between 1962 and 1974, Myanmar was ruled by a revolutionary council headed by the general.

- ✓ 23 June 1997---Myanmar admitted into the ASEAN.
 - ✓ August 2007---Saffron revolution (due to increase in the price of fuel), led by Buddhist monks.
 - ✓ 2008 April - New constitution got published, which allocated a quarter of seats in parliament to the military and banned opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from holding office.
- **Civil wars**

Period of liberalisation (2011–2021)

- 2010---General Elections.**

The military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) declared winner.

Retired general Thein Sein as President.



- 2012----By Elections**

Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy(NLD) party, won 43 of the 45 available seats.

- 2015----General elections.**

NLD got an absolute majority of seats.

NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi is constitutionally barred from the presidency.

- **2016**--Hitin Kyaw was elected as the first non-military president since the military coup of 1962

On 6 April 2016, Aung San Suu Kyi became State Counsellor, a role akin to a PM.

2020 elections and 2021 military coup d'état

- Suu Kyi's NLD won
- USDP complained of irregularities.
- However, election observers declared there were no major irregularities in the voting.

Coup

1 February 2021, the Tatmadaw (Myanmar's military) under Min Aung Hliang, detained State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and other members of the ruling party. President Win Myint placed under house arrest.

Reactions over Military rule

- **Condemned by**

UN General Secretary, US, Western European political leaders, Southeast Asian democracies
They demanded:

- ✓ release of the captive leaders,
- ✓ immediate return to democratic rule in Myanmar.
- ✓ The U.S. threatened sanctions on the military and its leaders, including a "freeze" of US\$1 billion of their assets in the U.S.

- **Refrained to criticise**

India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Russia, Vietnam, Thailand, Phillipines and China.

The representatives of Russia and China had conferred with the Tatmadaw leader Gen. Hlaing just days before the coup.

24th April 2021

ASEAN held a high level summit to discuss the mounting crisis in Myanmar

A **5 point consensus** was agreed at the summit:

- 1) Immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar.
- 2) Constructive dialogue among all parties.
- 3) Appointment of especial ASEAN envoy to facilitate dialogue.
- 4) Provision of humanitarian assistance.
- 5) A visit by the envoy to Myanmar.

India's stand on military coup d'état

- India has proclaimed a **policy shift** concerning diplomatic engagement with Myanmar's current regime.
- **India's stand on Myanmar's political situation in 1987---**
- **India's stand on Myanmar's political situation now---**
- ✓ December 22, 2021---Indian foreign secretary visited Myanmar and met Myanmar's military chief, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing.

February 2022---4th Quad foreign ministers meet

India did not support the idea of imposing sanctions on Myanmar. India argued that it is concerned about the crisis, as an “immediate land-border neighbour”, but have “some specific” concerns on Myanmar and it was said that “where we are concerned, we don’t follow a policy of national sanctions”.

India highlighted Three points:

- Point 1----Security concerns.
- Point 2---Preferential world treatment of military rule.
- Point no. 2---India support the ASEAN five point consensus.

India's stand on military coup d'état: A Major Policy Shift

- **For some (critics)--- Is India's approach towards legitimisation of coup?**
- ✓ Foreign Secretary visit to Myanmar post coup(December 2021)
- ✓ Terms used in Ministry of External Affairs press release
- ✓ Continued military cooperation
- ✓ Continued economic linkages
- ✓ Development projects

Twin-Track Approach

In response, it can be argued that India has adopted a twin track approach towards Myanmar.

- Carrying on diplomatic engagement with Myanmar's military junta
- At the same time, pushing for the country's return to democracy.

Reasons for inverted India's approach to Myanmar

- Growing influence of China in Myanmar.
- Security apprehensions across border
- Act East policy
- Neighbourhood First policy
- Kaladan Multimodal Project

Analysis of India's policy spin

- Litmus test for Indo Bangladesh relations.
- India walks tightrope on Myanmar
- Pragmatic approach
- Test case for India-US understanding on the Indo-Pacific
- Twin geostrategic goals
- Need for a cautious approach.

Rohingya Issue

Who are Rohingyas?

Rohingyas are Muslims in Myanmar's Rakhine state (NW Myanmar).

Described by UN as one of the most persecuted minorities in the world and one of the most discriminated people in the world.

Denied citizenship under the 1982 Myanmar nationality law.

2012

2015

2016-17

What is the global response to this issue?

- **United Nations:** United Nations later described as a “textbook example of ethnic cleansing”.
- **China**
- **ASEAN**
- **Bangladesh, India, and Indonesia**

Dec 2020---- Bangladesh sent more than 1,500 Rohingya refugees to an isolated Bhasan Char Island ((Floating Island) in the Bay of Bengal under its Ashrayan Project.

Concern:

- ✓ Ecologically fragile area
- ✓ prone to floods, erosion and cyclones.

Rohingyas are of no strategic value to anyone.

India's response towards Rohingya Refugees

August 2022--- The Union home ministry said Rohingya refugees in New Delhi will be held at a detention centre and then deported.

February 2022---- Congress MP Shashi Tharoor proposed a refugee and asylum law. Since the bill was from a private member—a parliamentarian not in government—could not pass.

13-18 Feb 2022---- United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees during her visit to Bangladesh discussed Rohingya refugees circumstances in Cox's Bazar and Bhashan Char.

2021---India has abstained on a U.N. General Assembly resolution on Myanmar

April 2021----Mohammad Salimullah v. Union of India (UoI)

Supreme Court in Mohammad Salimullah v. Union of India (UoI) did not order the release of Rohingyas reportedly detained in Jammu.

The right not to be deported, is ancillary or supplementary to the right to reside or settle in any part of the territory of India guaranteed under Article 19(1)(e).

Art 19(1)e is a fundamental right granted only to citizen.

On this ground court rejected their release in India and favoured deportation under proper procedure.

Why India has taken this stand on Rohingya Issue?

- Internal affair of Myanmar.
- ASEAN factor.
- Avoiding conflict of interests .
- Threat to national security.
- India's Act East Policy.

- . Poverty

- . Unemployment.

- . Demographic change.

- . Rise of illegal immigrants.

- . Islamic extremism

Difference between Refugees, Asylum seekers and Migrants

Refugees: A refugee is a person who has fled their own country because they are at **risk of serious human rights violations and persecution there.**

Asylum-seeker: An asylum-seeker is a person who has **left their country and is seeking protection from persecution and serious human rights violations in another country.** However, he/she hasn't yet been legally recognized as a refugee and is waiting to receive a decision on their asylum claim.

Migrants: Migrants can be understood to be people staying outside their country of origin, who are not asylum-seekers or refugees.

What is India's Refugee Policy?

- India lacks specific policy on refugees.
- There exists the Foreigners Act, 1946.
- There is Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019.
- India is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

- Refugees and asylum seekers are entitled to the rights under **Articles 14, 20 and 21**
- **Controversy over right of non-refoulement.** (Non-refoulement is the principle under international law which states that a person fleeing persecution from his own country should not be forced to return to his own country.)

Why Hasn't India Framed a Law on Refugees Yet?

Why India has not Signed 1951 Refugee Convention

Challenges associated With India's Refugee Approach

What could be the way forward for legislation on refugees by India

- Revision of Model Laws by Expert Committee**
- Temporary shelter and work permit for refugees.**
- Make a distinction between temporary migrant workers, illegal immigrants and refugees.**

Taking care of refugees in India is a moral duty for the state.

What is the way forward to solve Rohingya refugee issue?

- **Creative Diplomacy**
- **Planning needs to be short term**
- **Rolling back counterproductive measures**
- **Collaboration and discourse with neighbours**

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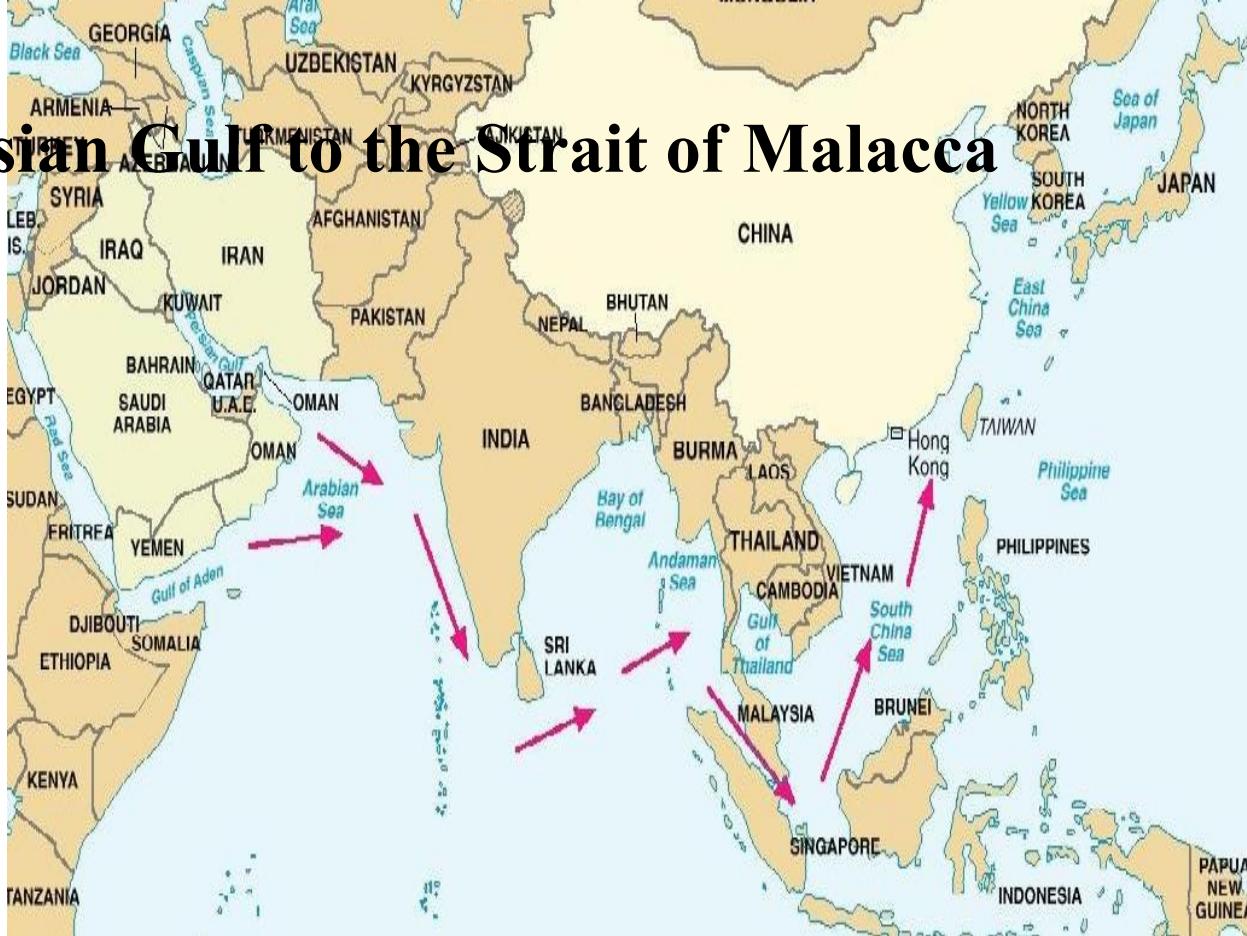
Why Srilanka is important to India

1) Location



2) Strategic Importance

Sri Lanka Persian Gulf to the Strait of Malacca



necting the



3) Important actor in India's Foreign policy



Background of Sri Lankan Civil War

Context : June 9, 2020---Columbo Protest

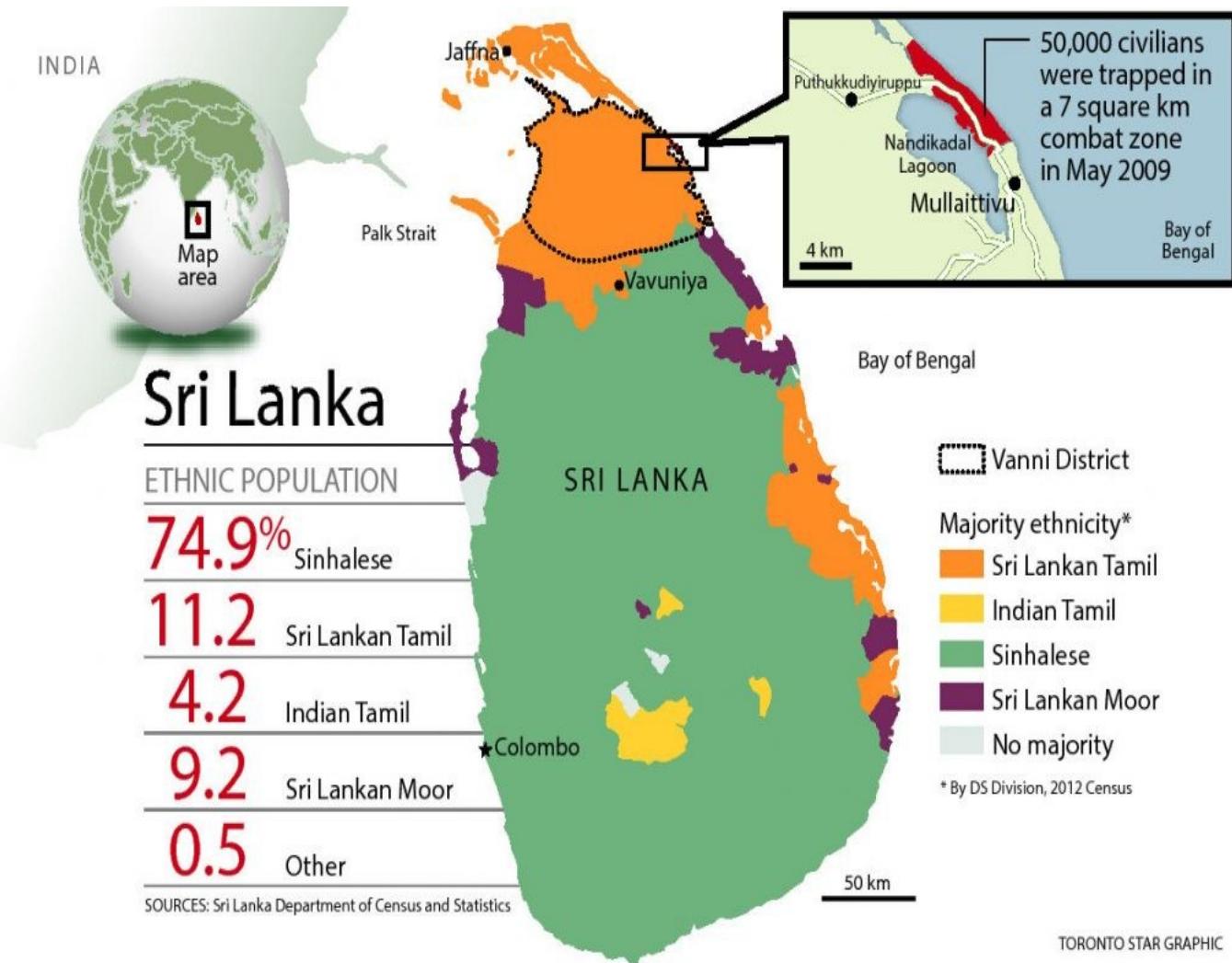
Civil War from 1983- 2009

Reason---Ethnic tensions between

- ✓ Sinhalese---74.9 % population
- ✓ Sri Lankan Tamil---11.2 % population

Conflict could be traced back to SL's history.

- ✓ Origin Theory
- ✓ British Rule



- ✓ Story Reverses (Post Independence)
- ✓ Idea of Tamil Eelam
- ✓ Formation of LTTE
- ✓ 2009---Civil War ended

Indian Intervention in the Sri Lankan Civil War

Way Forward

- ✓ A unified citizenry
- ✓ Ethnic unity

Internationalisation of Human Rights Violation Issue

At the end of the civil war, the United Nations accused both sides (LTTE and Sri Lanka army) of atrocities, especially during the conflict's final stages.

International rights groups claim at least 40,000 ethnic Tamil civilians were killed in the final stages of the war.

The resolutions on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka were thus moved by UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2022.

UNHRC Resolution

October 2022---

The 47-member UN Human Rights Council voted on a draft resolution on Sri Lanka , which **calls for accountability for economic crimes** and enhancing the mandate of the UN human rights chief for collecting information on war crimes for prosecution in foreign countries.

The resolution would “**extend and reinforce the capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner to collect, consolidate, analyse and preserve information and evidence and to develop possible strategies for future accountability processes for gross violations of human rights or serious violations of international humanitarian law in Sri Lanka, to advocate for victims and survivors, and to support relevant judicial and other proceedings, including in Member States, with competent jurisdiction**”.

Further, the draft resolution called on the OHCHR to “enhance its monitoring and reporting including on progress in reconciliation and accountability, and on the human rights impact of the economic crisis and corruption”.

What does UNHRC resolution 2022 mean for Sri Lanka?

The resolution’s passage would be a rebuke to the Sri Lanka , which has been arguing that it requires international solidarity during the economic crisis.

It will be the first time that a UNHRC resolution on Sri Lanka calls for accountability for violation of human rights due to corruption and economic crisis

According to the Sri Lankan newspaper *Sunday Times*, this is “by far one of the strongest resolutions “by far one of the strongest resolutions in terms of the wide variety of issues raised and the implications to Sri Lanka”.

What has been Sri Lanka's reaction?

The Sri Lankan government rejected the OHCHR report and refused to support the draft resolution. Sri Lankan claimed it is opposed to operative paragraph number 8, which he claimed is directly in confrontation with Sri Lanka's constitution.

International voting on October 2022 resolution

The draft resolution on 'Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka' was adopted with 20 nations voting in favour in the 47-member Council, seven against, including China and Pakistan, and 20 abstentions, including by India, Japan, Nepal and Qatar.

The 20 countries that voted in favour of the resolution included, the United Kingdom, the United States, Argentina, Finland, France, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Poland, Republic of Korea and Ukraine.

India's vote in 2022 resolution

India abstained on a draft resolution in the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka which was adopted. While abstaining, India stressed that it will work with Sri Lanka and the international community to attain the related objectives of legitimate aspirations of Tamils of Sri Lanka and prosperity for all Sri Lankans.

In a statement during the adoption of the resolution, it was said that while **India has taken note of the commitments by the government of Sri Lanka on issues of implementation of the commitments in the spirit of the 13th Constitutional Amendment, meaningful devolution and the early conduct of provincial elections**, “we believe that the progress towards the same remains inadequate.” India urged Sri Lanka to work meaningfully towards early implementation of these commitments.

March 2021---

India abstained from voting on a resolution in the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) .

Factors behind India's nature of voting?

India's stand on UNHRC resolution of Srilanka

What is impact of the UNHRC resolution on Sri Lanka

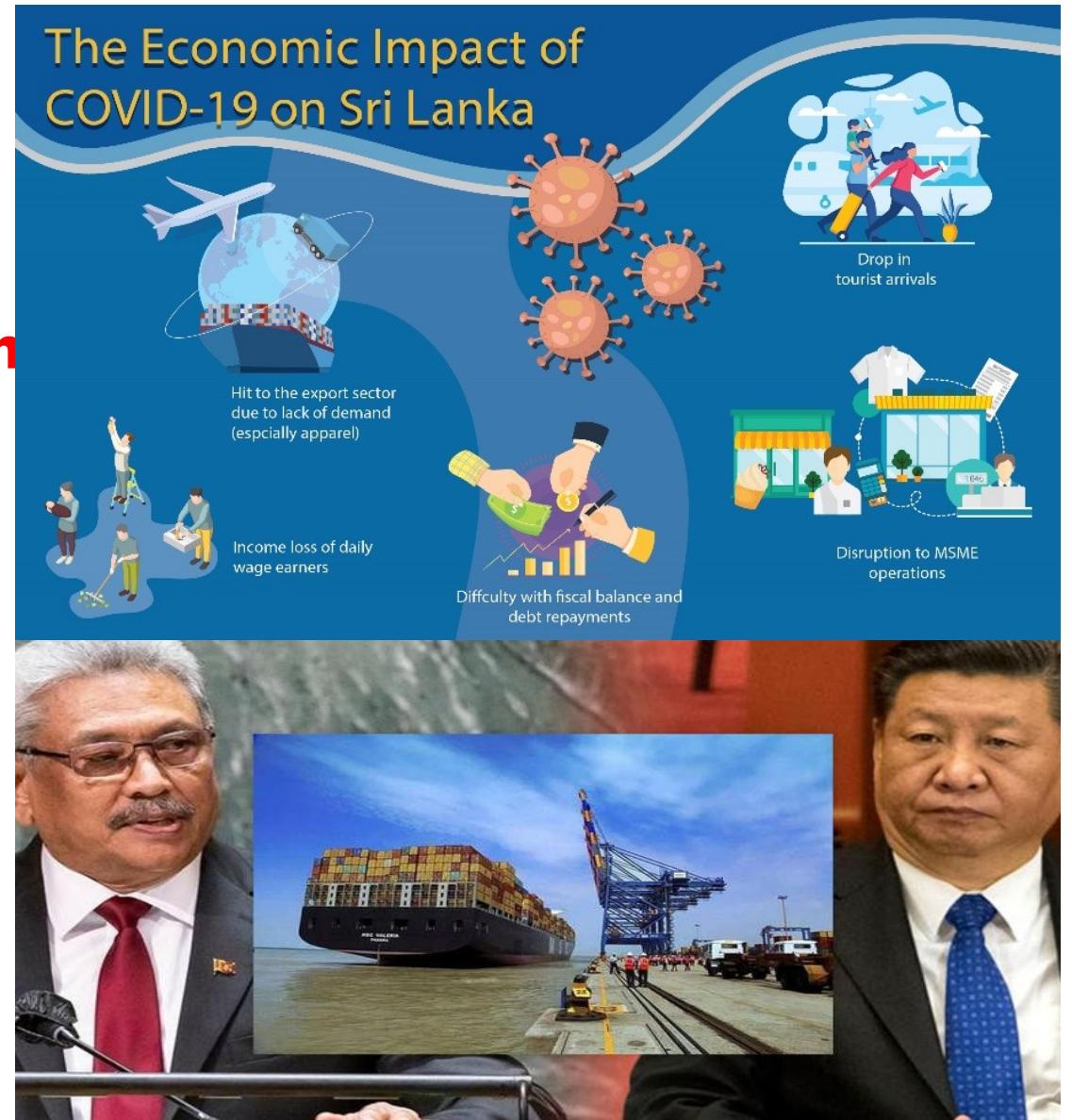
Sri Lanka State of Emergency

August 2021----

What led to economic crisis in Sri Lanka

1) Primarily 2 C's

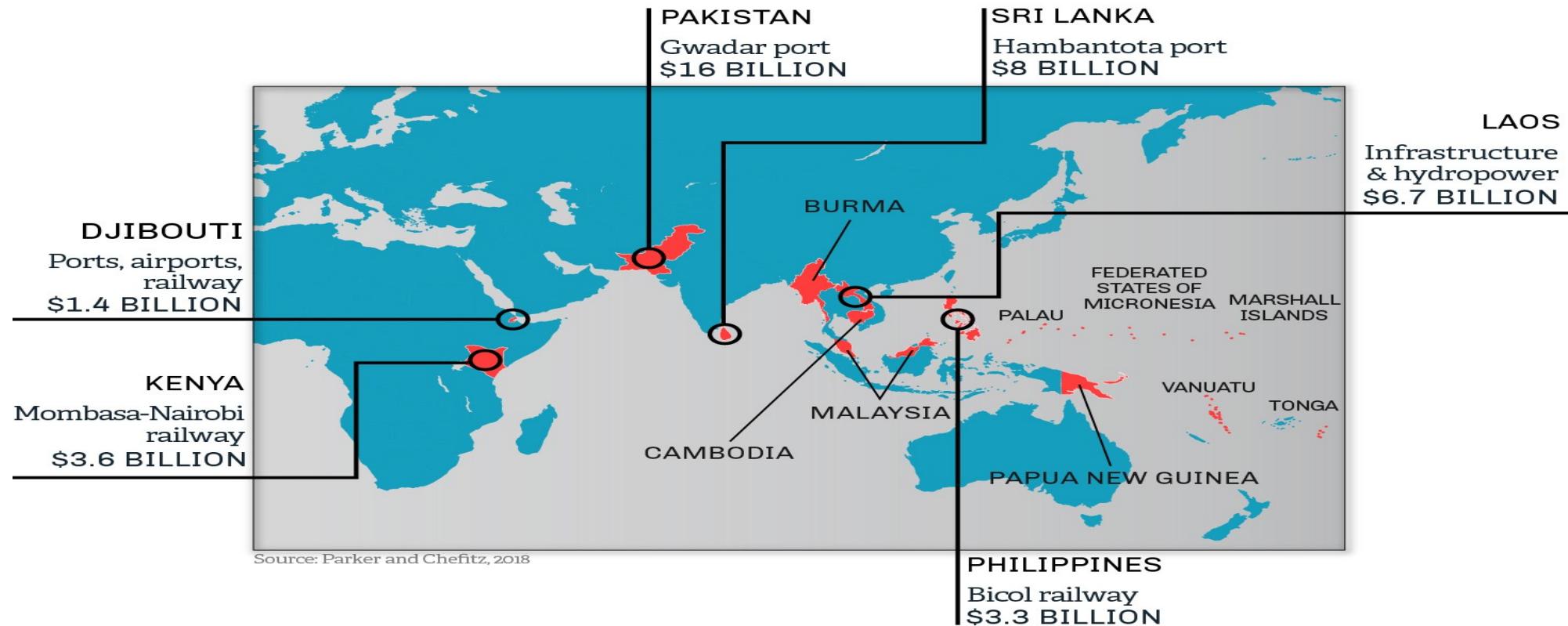
- Impact of the Covid crisis
- China's debt-trap policy



China's Debt-Trap Policy

Also been called “Debtbook Diplomacy” or “Cheque Book Diplomacy”

China's BRI-led debt-trap diplomacy is the economic aspect of China's “**Salami Slicing Strategy**”.



2) Dependence on imports

3) Underperforming Tourism Industry

4) Depreciation of currency

5) Rising inflation

6) FDI inflows have halved from \$1.2 billion (2019) to \$670 million (2020).

7)Food Shortage

8) High debt-to-GDP ratio: Sri Lanka owes more than \$51 billion in foreign debt, of which \$28 billion has to be repaid by 2028.

9) The Russian-Ukraine war

India's Assistance to Sri Lanka

- In January 2022, India announced a USD 900 million loan to Sri Lanka.
- An agreement was signed to grant Sri Lanka a credit line of USD 500 million for fuel purchases.

Four-Pillar Initiative

1) Lines of credit: Lines of credit for food, medicines and fuel purchases granted by India.

2)Currency Swap

3) Modernisation Project

4) Investment

Political Crisis in Sri Lanka

1) The political structure in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's government operates under a semi-presidential system.

2) Political dynamics

- ✓ **3 April 2022**—All 26 members of the Gotabaya cabinet with the exception of Prime Minister Rajapaksa resigned en masse overnight.
- ✓ **9 July 2022**—President Gotabaya and PM Wickremesinghe both agreed to resign from their respective posts. G. Rajapaksa left Sri Lanka to Maldives from where he issued a gazette stating that he is "unable to exercise his duties and functions of the Office of the President" and that he appoints Ranil Wickremesinghe as acting president.
- ✓ **15 July 2022**—Ranil Wickremesinghe swore in as the Acting President.
- ✓ **22 July 2022**—Wickremesinghe appointed Dinesh Gunawardena, as new Prime Minister.

How is the Crisis in Sri Lanka Impacting India?

Quest: The economic emergency in Sri Lanka is a challenge as well as an opportunity for India to improve bilateral relations with the island nation. Comment. (250 words)

How can Sri Lanka overcome the Crisis?/ What Can Be the Way Forward?

Question: “Amid the ongoing economic crisis in Sri Lanka, India must offer Sri Lanka financial help, policy advice and investment from Indian entrepreneurs. It is in India’s interest to contain Chinese presence in the country”. Comment.

Areas of cooperation

1) Economic cooperation

- India and Sri Lanka are member nations of several regional and multilateral organizations such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, South Asian Economic Union and BIMSTEC.
- India is Sri Lanka's third largest export destination, after the US and UK.
- India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA): came into effect in March 2000.
- Sri Lanka is one of India's largest trading partners among the SAARC countries.
- India in turn is Sri Lanka's largest trade partner globally.
- The agreement CEPA is yet to be signed between the countries.

2) Defence and Security Cooperation

- . India and Sri Lanka conducts joint Military ('Mitra Shakti') and Naval exercise (SLINEX).
- . A trilateral maritime security cooperation agreement was signed by India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives to improve surveillance, anti-piracy operations and reducing maritime pollution in Indian Ocean Region.
- . In April 2019, India and Sri Lanka also concluded agreement on countering Drug and Human trafficking.
- . In the aftermath of the horrific Easter bombings, Sri Lankan Prime Minister thanked the Indian government for all the “help” given. The alerts issued by Indian agencies before the attacks had warned specifically about the use of radicalised suicide bombers attacking churches and the Indian High Commission in Colombo.

Challenges in India-Sri Lanka relationship

Way Forward

GS Paper 2

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Why is Nepal important for India?

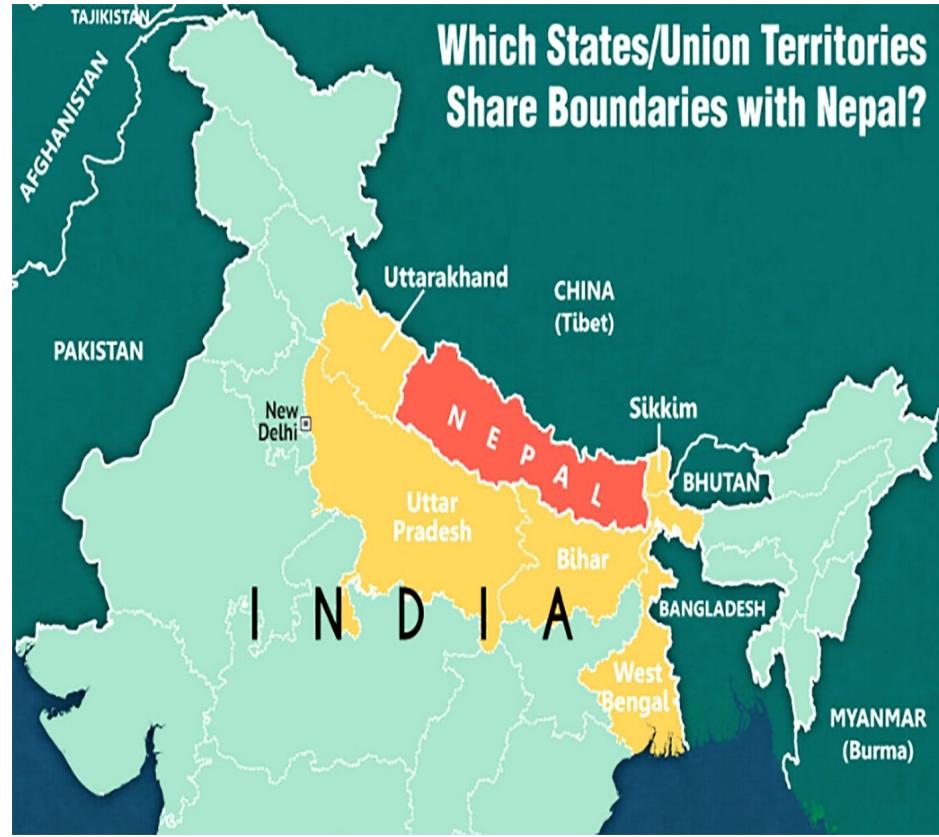
Given the importance of ties with Nepal, Indo Nepal relations are often romanticised as one of “**Roti-Beti**” (food and marriage)

1) Location

- Land Locked country
- Shares border with 5 Indian states.

2) Strategic Importance

- Acts as a buffer state for India.
- Security concerns
- Chinese Angle



Why is Nepal important for India?

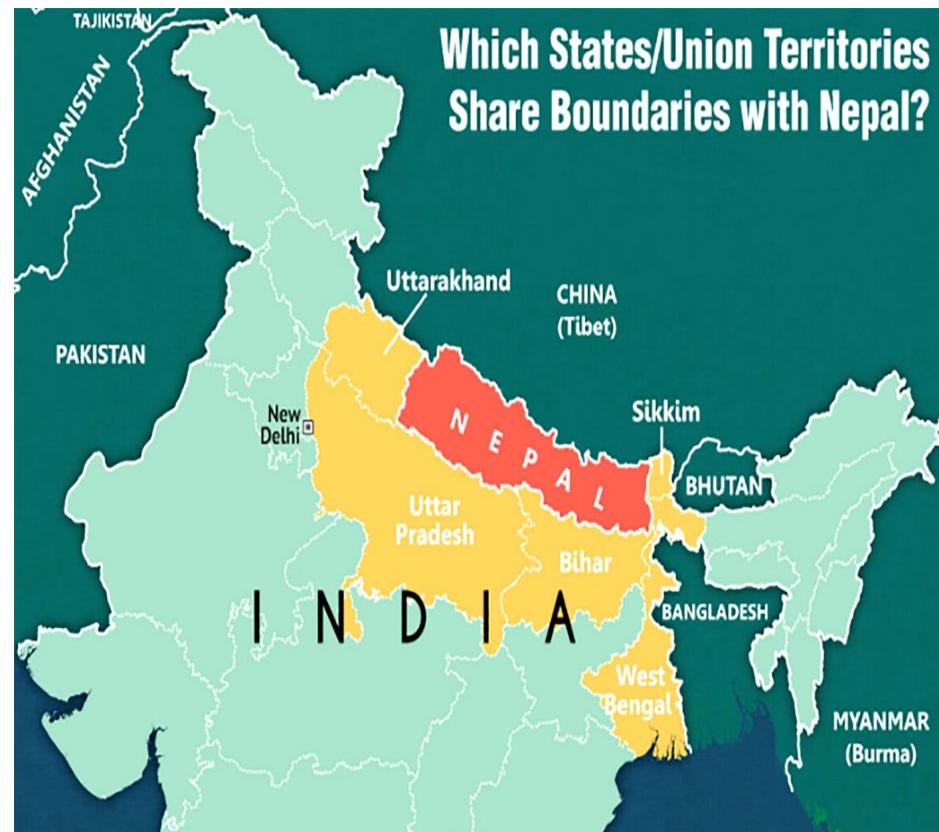
3) Manifestation of Neighbourhood

First Policy

4) Nepal's Hydroelectric potential

5) Experimental place for Global Climate Change

6) Potential for Mountain economy



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1) Roots lies to ancient times.**
- 2) Early 1700----Started dynastic rule for the Prime Minister, known as the “Rana”. Continued till 1951.**
- 3) Nepal's struggle for democracy post 1951.**
 - **1951**
 - **1959**
 - **1994**

- Period of civil unrest.

- 2005

- 2007

- 2008

- 2015

WHY IN NEWS?

- **March 2023---**Newly elected President Ram Chandra Poudel took the oath of office. (PM of Nepal---Pushpa Kamal Dahal, assumed office since December 2022)
- **June 17, 2022----**India and Nepal marked 75 years of official diplomatic relations

The two neighbours have multidimensional and dense relations, yet the relationship is marked by contradictions.

- **September 13, 2022----**Nepal foreign secretary visit to India

- **16TH MAY 2022 ---Pm Modi visit to Nepal, met his the then counter counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba.**

Key Highlights:

- **Launch of India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage in Lumbini**
- **Hydropower Projects**
 - (i) Arun-4 hydropower project
 - (ii) West Seti hydropower project in Nepal
- **Setting up a Satellite Campus** of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Rupandehi.
- **Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project**

- **April 2020: Visit of Prime Minister of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba to India.**

Areas of Cooperation

1) Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950

- Permits close relationship and collaboration on matters of defence and foreign affairs.
- The two countries agreed to grant, on reciprocal basis, same privileges in matter of
 - ✓ residence,
 - ✓ ownership of property, trade and business.
 - ✓ movement

Critical Issues in Indo–Nepal Treaty

Way Forward regarding issues in Indo Nepal treaty

2)Trade and Economy

- India is Nepal's largest trade partner.
- India is the largest source of foreign investments.
- Nepal is an important export market for India.
- Hydro power potential
- Nepal is the largest borrower of Indian Currency in South Asia.

3)Power Sector

On August 2022, the West-Seti Hydropower Project has been finalised.

4) Connectivity

- 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship
- An MOU have been signed between both governments for laying an electric rail track linking Kathmandu with Raxaul in India.
- Develop the inland waterways (linking Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) with Sagar (Indian Ocean)
- In Jan 2022, the Union Cabinet has cleared a plan to build a new bridge connecting India and Nepal over the Mahakali river and link Dharchula in Uttarakhand with Nepal's Dharchula.

- BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA)



5)Development Assistance

- The areas of assistance include **infrastructure, health, water resources, and education and rural & community development.**

6) Defence Cooperation

7) Cultural

India has signed three sister-city agreements for the twinning of

✓ Kathmandu-Varanasi,

✓ Lumbini-Bodhgaya

✓ Janakpur-Ayodhya.

8) Humanitarian Assistance

2015---Operation Maitri is the rescue and relief operation in Nepal by the Government of India and Indian Armed Forces in the aftershock of the 2015 Nepal earthquake.

9) Multilateral Partnership

Challenges in Indo Nepal Relations

Ques/- India-Nepal relations has been deteriorated in recent times and need to be strengthened. Critically examine.

1)Territorial Disputes

(a)Kalapani dispute

Kalapani is a strategically important tri-junction between India, China and Nepal in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.



What is Kalapani dispute

Both India and Nepal claim Kalapani as an integral part of their territory — India as part of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district and Nepal as part of Dharchula district.

Presently Who controls the area?

Presently it is in India's control but Nepal claims the region because of historical and cartographic reasons.

What is the origin to the dispute

- Before the 1816 Treaty of Sugauli, the Nepalese kingdom stretched from the Sutlej river in the west to the Teesta river in the east.
- Nepal lost the Anglo-Nepalese War.
- Subsequently, the Sugauli Treaty was between the Rajah of Nepal and the East India Company.
- According to the treaty, the British rulers recognised Nepal's right to the region that fell to the east of the river Kali.
- The Treaty thus established Mahakali River as a dividing line in the Western sector.

Present issues: The dispute is mainly because of the varying interpretation of the origin of the river and also due to shifting of river course.

Nepal's claim:

According to Nepal's experts, the east of the Kali river should begin at the source of the river.

The source according to them is in the mountains near Limpiyadhura.

Nepal claims that a land mass, from Limpiyadhura downwards, is theirs. Thus, all the three areas Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani are considered to the east of the river Kali and claimed under Nepali control.



India's claim:

India on the other hand says the border begins at Kalapani which India says is where the river begins.

Present controversy

2019---The new political map of India post creation of 2 UTs of J&K in west and Ladakh in east in 2019, showed the Kalapani area as a part of India

2020--- In a revised official map, Nepal has incorporated the territory from the Limpiyadhura source of the Kali to Kalapani and Lipulekh pass in the northeast of the triangular region as its territory.

(b) Susta

(c) Lipulekh issue

2) Nepal's new constitution and Madhesis issue

3) Nepali nationalism and Anti-India sentiments

(4)Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project

1996---The Mahakali treaty was signed, and an agreement was made for building Pancheshwar Dam for irrigation, flood control and generation of 5,040 MW of power for the countries.

5) Deeply divided internal politics and unstable democracy

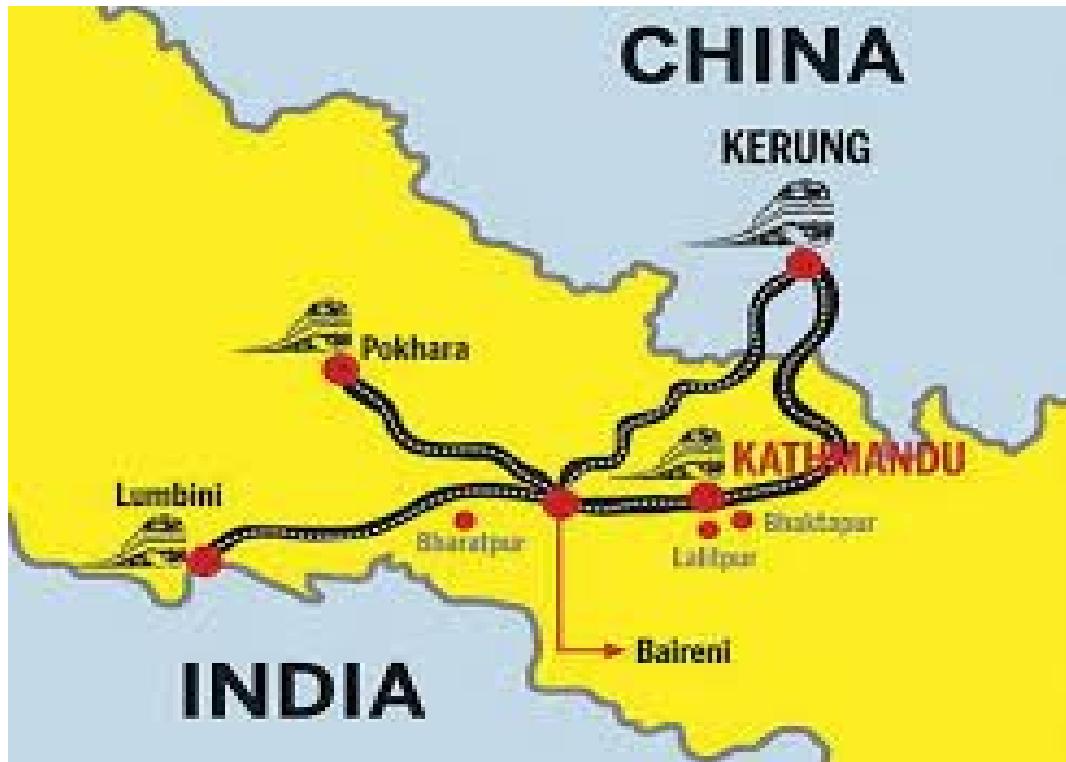
(6) Issues with Peace and Friendship Treaty

(7) Demonetisation

(8)China factor

Why is China seen as a challenge by India?

Nepal-China Trans-Himalayan Multi-dimensional Connectivity Network



Reasons behind Nepal's growing proximity with China

Way Forward

Conclusion

It was said that India-Nepal relation is as strong and as ancient as the Himalayas.

On the recent visit of PM Modi to Nepal, India held that ,”**Our ties with Nepal are unparalleled. The civilisational and people-to-people contacts between India and Nepal form the enduring edifice of our close relationship.”**

GS Paper 2

International Relations

India and its Neighbourhood

Indo-Bhutan Relations

Dr. Shruti Joshi

Why is Bhutan important for India?

India and Bhutan share a unique and proven bilateral relationship characterized by utmost trust, goodwill and mutual understanding.

1) Location

- Bhutan shares border with four Indian States: Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Sikkim.

- It is land locked.

2) Economic Significance



3)Strategic Importance

- **Security concerns**
- **Vital connectivity through India's chicken neck**
- **Buffer to China**

- **Security in North-East**
- **Chinese inroad in Bhutan**
- **Confluence of Neighbourhood First policy and Act East policy**

Historical Ties

- **1910**--- Bhutan became a protectorate of British India
- **1947**---the new Indian Government recognized Bhutan as an independent country.
- **1949**--- Indo-Bhutan Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1949
 - ✓ The Treaty provides for, among other things, perpetual peace and friendship, free trade and commerce and equal justice to each other's citizens.
 - ✓ Article 2 of the treaty critically gave India a role in guiding Bhutan's foreign policy. Hence, some changes in the treaty were made in 2007.

- **1950---China's annexation of Tibet**
- **1950's----Significant increase in India's economic, military and development aid to Bhutan.**
- **2007---Revised Indo-Bhutan Treaty of Peace and Friendship 2007—**
 - ✓ India should try as much as possible to remain out of Bhutan's internal matters.
 - ✓ Safety of Border from China is a concern for both nations.
 - ✓ Bhutan can import arms as long as Indian interests are not harmed and there is no re-export of the weapons.
 - ✓ Includes the issue of 'national treatment' and equal privileges for citizens on each other's soil.

- **1978**---The two offices of special representatives were upgraded to full-fledged embassies.
- **2014**---Prime Minister Narendra Modi first foreign visit to Bhutan.
- **January 21, 2021**--- India sent free doses of the Covid-19 vaccine to Bhutan.
- **16th September 2022**---In a positive response to requests from the Bhutanese government, India made special trade concessions to export wheat and sugar to the country.
- **28-30 April 2022**---External Affairs Minister (EAM), Dr. S. Jaishankar had paid an official visit to Bangladesh and Bhutan.

Why Indo Bhutan relations is called “special” in nature.

Areas of cooperation

1) Trade:

- Governed by the India Bhutan Trade and Transit Agreement 1972 which was last renewed in November 2016. This renewed treaty provides for a free trade regime between the two countries.
- India is Bhutan's largest trading partner.
- Benefits to North Eastern States
- Financial connectivity
- Start-Up ecosystem: through the National Knowledge Network & the Druk-REN connection.

2) Hydro Power cooperation:

- Government of India has constructed three Hydroelectric Projects (HEPs) in Bhutan.
 - ✓ Chukha HEP,
 - ✓ Kurichhu HEP.
 - ✓ Tala HEP.

- India is helping Bhutan in the development of power plant on Mangdechhu River.

2006 Agreement on Cooperation in Hydropower.

- The Indo-Bhutan hydro power relationship has never been a zero-sum game.

3)India-Bhutan Military Relations

- 2000 strong Indian Military Training Team (IMTRAT) is permanently based in western Bhutan.
- India cooperate with the Royal Bhutan Army in matters of anti-insurgency and counter-terrorism.
- Air protection is provided by the Eastern Air Command of the Indian Air Force.

4)Multilateral Partnership

5)Tourism

6)Other cooperation

- . Maitri Initiative**
- . India Bhutan Satellite**

Why Bhutan is India's Achilles' heel

1) Location



2) Chinese intrusive activities in Chumbi valley



3) Doklam issue

Doklam, or Donglang in Chinese, is an area spread over less than a 100 sq km comprising a plateau and a valley at the trijunction between India, Bhutan and China. It is surrounded by the Chumbi Valley of Tibet, Bhutan's Ha Valley and Sikkim.



Challenges

1) Instances of Indian interference

2) Politics behind hydropower collaboration

3)Security concern

4)China angle

Way Forward

GS Paper 2

International Relations

India and its Neighbourhood

Indo-Afghanistan Relations

Dr. Shruti Joshi

Afghanistan is a landlocked country located at the crossroads of Central Asia and South Asia.

Referred to as the Heart of Asia.

It is bordered by

- Pakistan to the east and South,
- Iran to the West.
- Turkmenistan to the North West,
- Uzbekistan to the North,
- Tajikistan to the North East and
- China to the North East and East.



History of Afghanistan

1823--The history of Afghanistan as a State began in 1823.

The land served as a centre of the ancient Silk Road.

1921

The British got defeated in the Third British-Afghan War (1919-21), and Afghanistan becomes an independent nation.

1926

Amir Amanullah Khan declares Afghanistan a monarchy, by 1929, the king abdicates and leaves the country.

1933

Zahir Shah becomes king for the next 40 years.

1934

The United States formally recognizes Afghanistan.

1953

The pro-Soviet Gen. Mohammed Daoud Khan becomes Prime Minister. Introduced a number of social reforms including allowing women a more public presence.

1956

Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev agrees to help Afghanistan, and the two countries become close allies.

1965

The Afghan Communist Party is formed secretly. The group's principal leaders are Babrak Karmal and Nur Mohammad Taraki.

1973

Khan overthrows the last king, Mohammed Zahir Shah, in a military coup. The Republic of Afghanistan is established with firm ties to the USSR.

1978

Khan is killed in a communist coup. Nur Mohammad Taraki, takes control of the country as President, and Babrak Karmal is named deputy Prime Minister. They proclaim independence from Soviet influence, and declare their policies to be based on Islamic principles. Taraki signs a friendship treaty with the Soviet Union. In June, the guerrilla movement (Mujahadeen) is created to battle the Soviet-backed government.

1979

President Taraki got killed. The USSR invades Afghanistan on Dec. 24 to support the faltering communist regime. Deputy Prime Minister Babrak Karmal becomes prime minister. Widespread opposition to Karmal and the Soviets spawns violent public demonstrations.

By early 1980, the Mujahadeen rebels have united against Soviet invaders and the USSR-backed Afghan Army.

1984

Osama bin Laden makes his first documented trip to Afghanistan to aid anti-Soviet fighters.

1986

The Mujahadeen are receiving arms from the United States, Britain and China via Pakistan.

1988

In September, Osama bin Laden and 15 other Islamists form the group al-Qaida, or “the base”, to continue their jihad, or holy war, against the Soviets.

1989

The U.S., Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the Soviet Union sign peace accords in Geneva guaranteeing Afghan independence and the withdrawal of 100,000 Soviet troops.

1992

Mujahadeen captured power.

1995

Newly formed Islamic militia, the Taliban, rises to power on promises of peace. The United States refuses to recognize the authority of the Taliban.

2000

The United Nations punishes Afghanistan with sanctions restricting trade and economic development.

Sept. 11, 2001

Attack on World Trade Center Towers in New York.

Oct--Nov 2001

U.S. and British forces launch airstrikes against targets in Afghanistan. Northern Alliance enters Kabul.

December 2001

It was declared that the rule of the Taliban in Afghanistan has totally ended. Hamid Karzai was sworn as the leader of the interim government in Afghanistan.

October 2004

Presidential elections are held. Hamid Karzai got elected as President.

2006

Amid continuing fighting between Taliban and al-Qaida fighters and the Afghan government forces, NATO expands its peacekeeping operation to the southern portion of the country.

2011

U.S. forces overtake a compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, and killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

May 2014

Obama announces timetable for reducing US troop size by 2016.

September 2014

Ashraf Ghani becomes president of Afghanistan.

February 2020

Deal signed between US and Taliban in Doha to end the war in Afghanistan and allow US troops to return home.

April, 2021

Biden announces aim to complete US troop withdrawal.

Aug. 15, 2021

The Afghanistan government collapses as the Taliban takes over Kabul. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan under President Ashraf Ghani was overthrown and Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan under the control of the Taliban got reinstated.

Why Afghanistan became the centre of Great games?

(I)Interest of USA

(II) Interest of Russia



Interest of Russia

Baku–Tbilisi–Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline



(III) Interest of China

(IV)Interest of Iran

(V)Interest of Pakistan

(VI) Interest of India

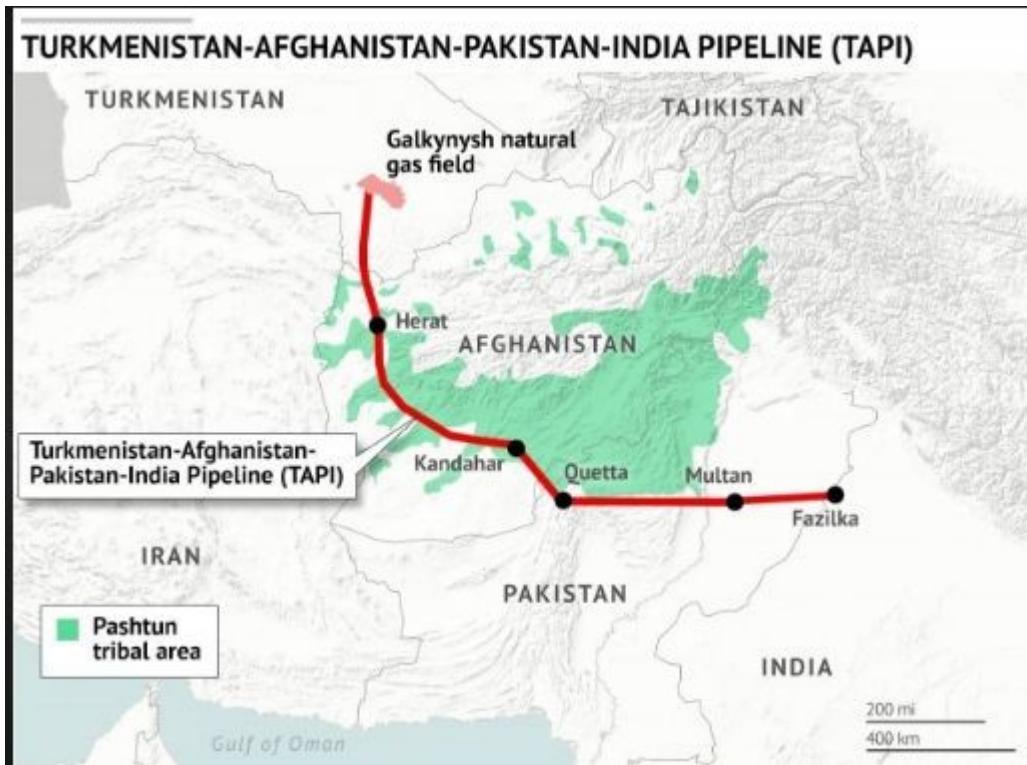
1) Geo Strategic significance

- Critical in terms of outreach to the Central Asian Republics (CAR).
- Shares a border with India's PoK.
- Counterbalance to Pakistan



2) Economic significance

- Gateway to central Asia
- ✓ TAPI



Chabahar Port

Garland Road



- From Chahbahar port using the existing Iranian road network, a link up to Zaranj in Afghanistan and then using the Zaranj-Delaram road constructed by India in 2009, access to Afghanistan's Garland Highway can be made
- This would establish road access to four of the major cities of Afghanistan -- Herat, Kandahar, Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif

North South Transport Corridor



3) Security Concerns



India's Afghan policy

1)Till the end of cold war

2)After the end of cold war

- 1996---Emergence of Taliban**
- 2001----US war on Afghanistan---GWOT**

- December 2001---Bonn agreement

3) India's Afghan policy between 2001-2021

- Ousting of Taliban
- India became Afghanistan's biggest regional development partner.
- In 2011, India became the first country with which Afghanistan signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement.
- India always stood for an Afghan led, controlled, owned political process in which all stakeholders have a role to play.
- It stresses on the legitimate democratically elected government in Afghanistan.

4)India's Afghan Policy after Taliban Takeover (Taliban 2.0 post 2021)

Why should India engage with Taliban?/Concerns that have arisen for India

- 1)Revival of terrorism
- 2)Rising international engagement.
- 3)Changing dynamics between Pakistan and Taliban.

4)Increasing influence of China

5)National security

6)Threat to financial and strategic investments.

7)Mutually beneficial.

8)Taliban presence could lead to perpetual regional instability.

India's Afghan Policy after Taliban Takeover (Taliban 2.0 post 2021)

- 1) India shuttered its embassy in Kabul.
- 2) Initially India reserved itself to limited talks with Taliban 2.0.
- 3) Initially India remained in a wait-and-watch mode.

Is there a policy shift towards Taliban 2.0?

1)At present, India is engaging at 2 levels: one at bilateral level, other at multi lateral level.

a)Engagement at bilateral level

- On August 12,2022-- India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar stated that India plans to expand its diplomatic presence in Kabul .

b) Engagement at multilateral level

- Nov 2021---- India organised the 3rd NSA-level eight-nation ‘Regional Security Dialogue’ .**

NSAs from Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan responded positively to Indian NSA Ajit Doval’s invitation.

2) Maintaining a People-Centric Approach

3) Engage, isolate, or oppose

Downsides of India's engagement with Taliban

- 1) India's outreach to Taliban 2.0 has raised several realist- moral contention
- 2) Shows inconsistency in India's policy
- 3) Security concerns
- 4) No change in the ideology of Taliban
- 5) Dealing with Pro-China Neighbours of Taliban

GS Paper 2

International Relations

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Context

- **September 2022**---External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar his four-day visit to Washington stated that India strives to have a relationship with China that is built on mutual sensitivity, respect and interest.
- **July 7, 2022**----State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar on the side lines of the Group of Twenty (G20) Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Bali Island.

The two emerging and enduring powers representing two modes of civilization signify a complex and dynamic relationship in world politics.

- India was the first non-communist country to establish an embassy in the People's Republic of China (PRC).
- The People's Republic of China was established on 1st October 1949 and on 1st April 1950 India and China established diplomatic relations.
- Both India and China jointly proposed the Panchsheel in 1954 which is the 5 principles of peaceful coexistence.
 - ✓ Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty;
 - ✓ Mutual non-aggression;
 - ✓ Mutual non-interference;
 - ✓ Equality and mutual benefit; and,
 - ✓ Peaceful co-existence.
- 1st April 2020 was marked as the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China starting in 1950.

Zone of Conflict

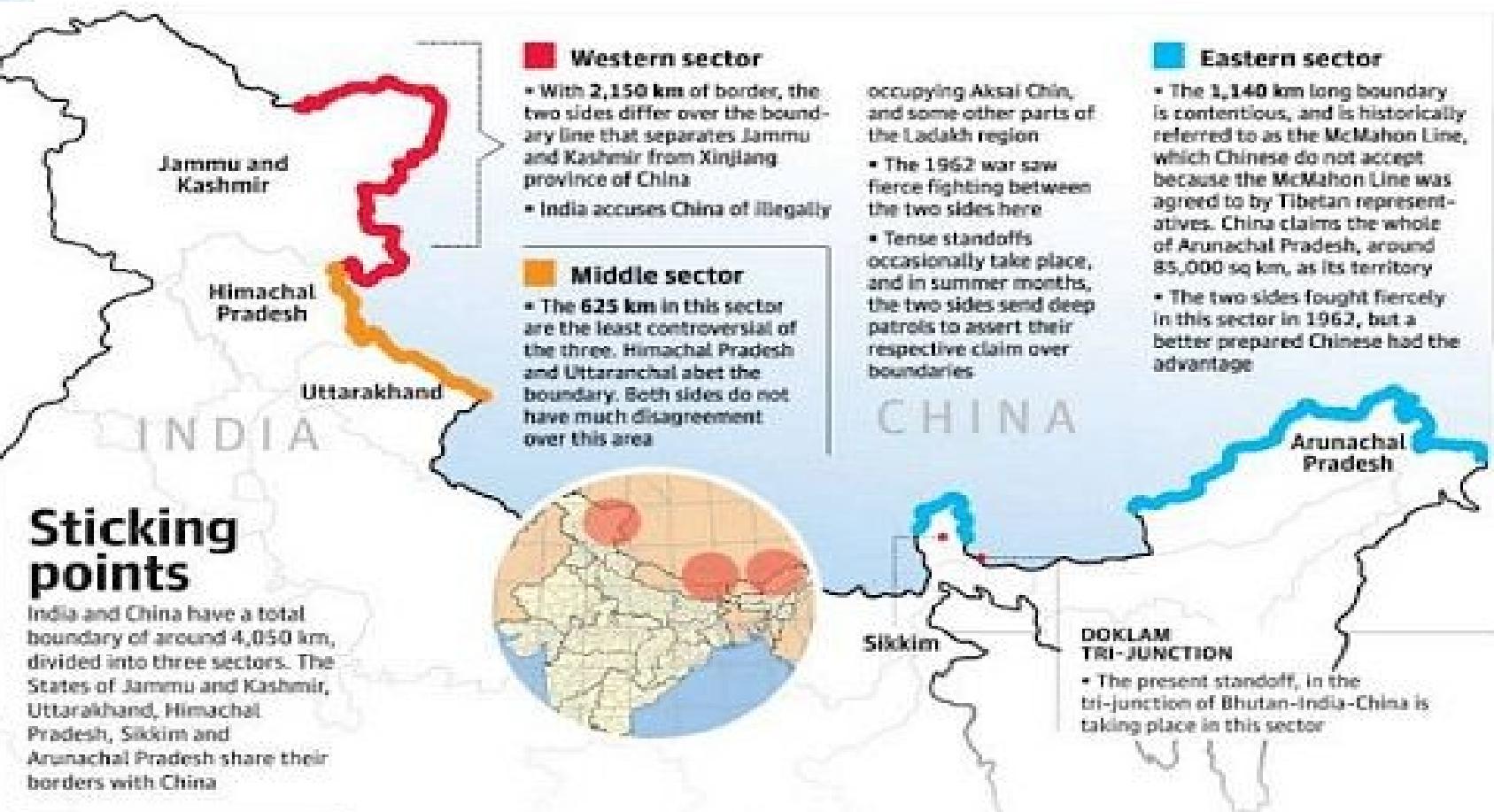
Difference between LAC and LOC

1)What is Line of Actual Control (LAC)

The Line of Actual Control (LAC) is the demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.

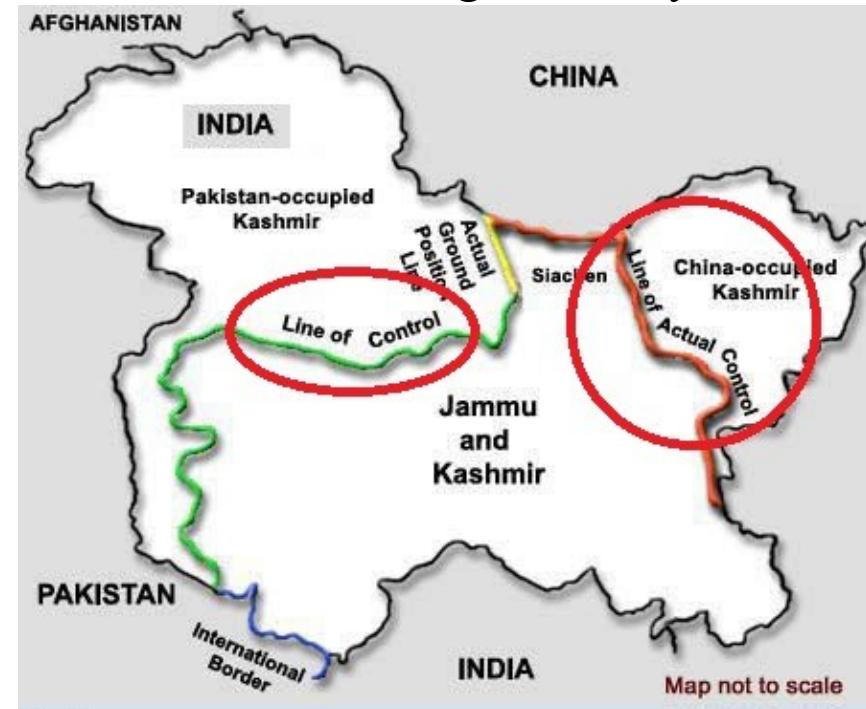
LAC is divided into three regions: Ladakh's western sector, Uttarakhand's middle sector, and Himachal Pradesh, and Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim's eastern sector.

The LAC, is only a concept – **it is not agreed upon by the two countries**, neither delineated on a map or demarcated on the ground.



WHAT IS LOC?

- The Line of Control (LoC) emerged from the 1948 ceasefire line negotiated by the United Nations after the Kashmir War.
- It was designated as the LoC in 1972, following the Shimla Agreement between the two countries.
- LoC is demarcated upto the Siachen Glacier (Point NJ9842)- the world's highest battlefield.
- LoC is delineated on a map signed by the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of both armies and has the international sanctity of a legal agreement.





I) India China Border Dispute

- India and China share a second largest after Bangladesh.
- The Sino-Indian border is generally divided into three sectors: the western, middle, and eastern sectors.

1) Western Sector

- It is located between the Indian states of Jammu and Kashmir and the Chinese province of Xinjiang.
- **Dispute over Aksai Chin**
- ✓ In 1962, both countries went to war over the disputed territory of Aksai Chin. It is claimed by India to be part of Kashmir, while China claims it to be part of Xinjiang.
- ✓ During British rule in India, two proposed borders between India and China were Johnson's Line and McDonald Line.

- ✓ The Johnson Line---proposed in 1865--- places Aksai Chin in Jammu and Kashmir, under Indian control--- India considers the Johnson Line to be the correct.
- ✓ The McDonald Line -----proposed in 1893----- places it under Chinese control---China considers the McDonald Line to be the correct border with India.
- ✓ At the moment, the Line of Actual Control (LAC) separates Indian areas of Jammu and Kashmir from Aksai Chin. It runs parallel to the Chinese Aksai Chin claim line.

2)Middle Sector

- In this sector, the border runs from Ladakh to Nepal.
- In this sector, the states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand touch the border with Tibet (China).
- In this area, there is little disagreement between the two sides.

3) Eastern Sector

- It stretches from Bhutan's eastern border to a point near the Talu Pass, which connects Tibet, India, and Myanmar. This boundary line is known as the McMahon Line.
- 1914---- A conference was held in Shimla---on behest of Britian--boundary between India and Tibet was formalized. Consequently, the Mac Mohan line was delineated.
- Currently, India recognises the Mcmahon line.
- China considers the McMahon Line to be illegal and unacceptable.

Why doesn't China accept the McMahon Line?

India's stand on McMahon Line

India - China War of 1962

Series of incidents

- Dispute especially on McMahan line and Johnson line because of no mutually agreed border.
- 1950 when China invaded Tibet.
- Occupation of Aksai Chin
- Asylum to Dalai Lama
- Forward policy of India
- 1959-60

Recent India- China border Stand-Offs

1)Chumar, 2014

2)Burtse, 2015

3)Doklam, 2017

2) Standoff at Galwan Valley 2020



- The Galwan valley refers to the land that sits between steep mountains that buffet the Galwan River.
- The River has its source in Aksai Chin, on China's side of the LAC, and it flows from the east to Ladakh, where it meets the Shyok River on India's side of the LAC.
- The valley is strategically located between Ladakh in the west and Aksai Chin in the east, which is currently controlled by China as part of its Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.
- Mid-June 2020---Chinese and Indian troops faced each other armed only with sticks and rocks.
- This was the fiercest border conflict with China to have occurred after the 1962 war.

What was India's Response:

Military

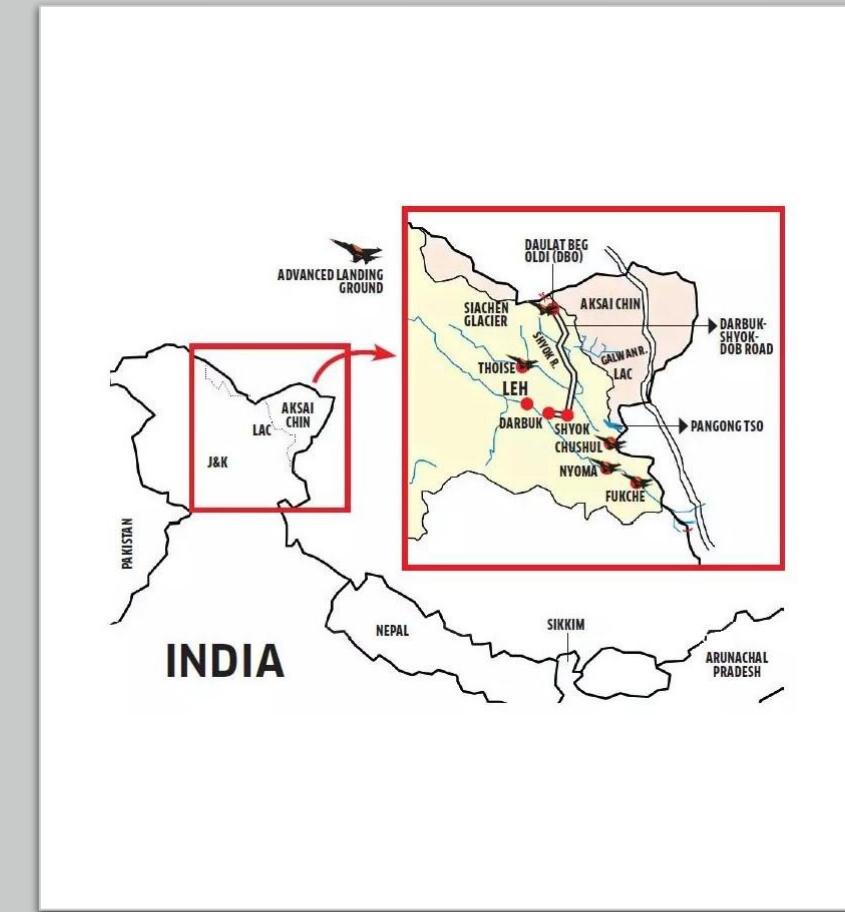
Economic

Why Border dispute in news recently?

- 1)China's new law on land borders came into effect from 1st January, 2022. Several places in Arunachal Pradesh have been renamed recently by China as part of its claim on the Indian state.
- 2)Also, China is constructing a bridge on the Pangong Tso lake which is claimed by India as its territory

Possible Reasons Behind Increased China's Deployment at the LAC recently:

- India's decision to strengthen its border infrastructure (Darbuk- Shyok- Daulat Beg Oldie road)
- India's United States tilt (e.g. QUAD) amid US-China tensions.
- India's assertions regarding Gilgit-Baltistan, is viewed by China as an implicit attack on the CPEC.
- China's growing assertiveness over the South China Sea South and considering India as its competitor.



Ques: It is imperative that India and China start an effective disengagement process and resolve the issue of border conflict in order to bring about an ‘Asian Century’.

Ans: Why it is necessary start an effective disengagement process and resolve the issue of border conflict.

- **Possibility of War**
- **Impacting Trade**
- **Constraints Economy**
- **Affects regional development**
- **Can Affect South-South Cooperation**

Way Forward for solving Border Disputes

- Continue dialogue
- Abide by all the existing agreements and protocols on China-India boundary affairs
- Continuing communications through the Special Representatives mechanism
- Should take guidance from Wuhan (2018) and Mamallapuram summits (2019).
- Roadmap for resolving border dispute will involve: Disengagement, de escalation and lastly de induction.

Three important friction points on the Western sector of Line of Actual Control (LAC) - Galwan, Pangong Tso and Gogra hot springs.

- ✓ Disengagement--- the action or the process of withdrawing troops from involvement in a particular activity, situation.
- ✓ De-escalation---reduction of the intensity of a conflict or potentially violent situation.
- ✓ De induction – The subsequent de-induction(de militarisation) would require troops on both sides to return to their pre-April 2020 positions or back to their respective garrisons.

September 2022---India and China confirmed the disengagement of their troops from a fifth friction point in Eastern Ladakh along the LAC. With the latest withdrawal of troops from patrolling point (PP) 15 in the Gogra-Hot Springs area, buffer zones have now been established by the two sides in five locations, including in Galwan Valley, north and south of Pangong Lake, and at PP17A in Gogra.

- The next two steps called de escalation and de induction –have not yet begun in the area.
- However, military observers believe there is still a long way to go before India and China achieve de-escalation, and eventually de-induction, from the poorly demarcated border.
- Delineation and proper demarcation along border is off course important.
- Modernisation through indigenisation.

This will help resolve the issue of border conflict in order to bring about an ‘Asian Century’

2) Dispute over Brahmaputra River

- The Brahmaputra/Yarlung Tsangpo is a trans-Himalayan river with its origin in the Jima Yangzong glacier (Mansarovar Lake region) near the Mount Kailash, located on the northern side of the Himalayas in Burang County of Tibet.
- Over 56% of it flows in Chinese territory.
- The Yarlung Tsangpo enters India after passing the Great Bend, through Arunachal Pradesh where it is known as Siang/Dihang, then onto Assam where it is called Brahmaputra, and thereafter to Bangladesh where it is named Jamuna.



- The Brahmaputra gets mightier as it flows downstream because of the flow contribution of tributaries such as Dibang, Lohit and Subansiri.

Importance of the River for India

- 1)Helps in agriculture, fishing, irrigation and riverine transport.
- 2)India is planning a multipurpose 10,000 MW hydropower project in Arunachal Pradesh

Importance of Brahmaputra for China

- Power to influence the flow of water to nations downstream.
- China has undertaken gigantic water diversion projects such as the South-North Water Transfer Project (SNWTP) to address its regional water distribution imbalance. The western line of this project includes building a dam on the Great Bend of Yarlung, where the river curves into the Assamese plains of India.
- Source of drinking water and agriculture for the parched areas of Tibet.
- Key to achieve China's intended goal to triple its hydropower capacity to 300 GW.

What is the conflict about?

1)The projects China is building are built very close to the border of the two nations.

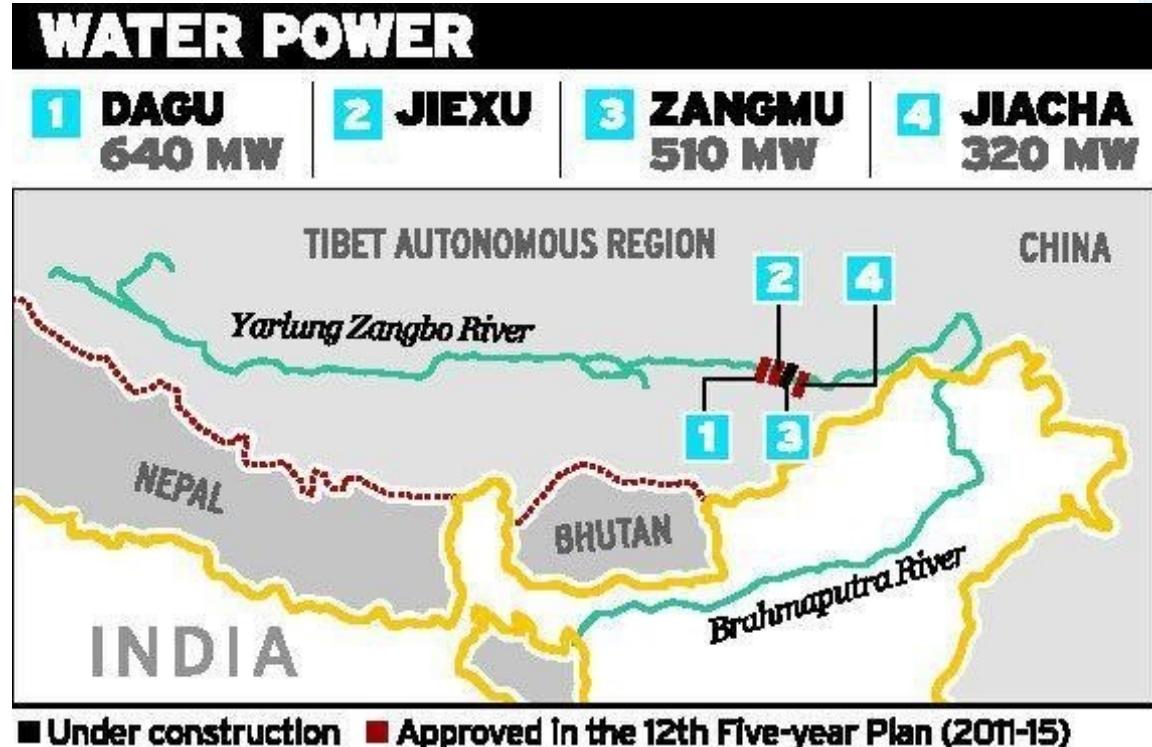
The major projects of concern for India *include*:

- China completed the **Zangmu Dam** (510 MW capacity) built on the upper reaches of Brahmaputra in 2010.

Three more dams at
Dagu (640 MW),
Jiacha (320 MW) and
Jeixu are currently under construction.

- The work on **Zam hydropower station**, which will be the largest dam on Brahmaputra, too commenced in 2015.

(A Sichuan-Tibet railway line near the India border)



2) Type of Projects

3) Water Hegemony

4) Flooding

5) Seismic Instability: In 2008, the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze witnessed an earthquake

6) Pollution

7) Use principle of prior appropriation to influence Arunachal Pradesh

8) Effect on Farming

Agreements Signed and problems with the agreement

- As of now, there is no institutionalised mechanism on water cooperation between India and China.
- In 2002, India and China had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) wherein China agreed to share hydrological information about Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra)

Way Forward

China's Growing Assertiveness

(I) China's Salami Slicing Strategy

1) What is China's Salami Slicing Strategy?

2) Means adopted in Salami Slicing strategy

- ✓ Coercive diplomacy
- ✓ Cartographic aggression

Deliberate upon the concerns associated with Cartographic aggression attempted by China recently, how will they further up the tensions between India and China?

- ✓ **Saber-rattling**

- ✓ **Gunboat diplomacy**

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has repeatedly performed military exercises in the Taiwan Strait and surrounding waters since 1949, the latest occurrence being on August 13, 2020.

- ✓ **Debt trap diplomacy loans, project funding leading to debt traps**
- ✓ **Educational programs and incentives.**

3) Multiple facets/ connotations of salami slicing

(i) Territorial claims

- ✓ Acquisition of Tibet and Xinjiang,
- ✓ Capture of Aksai Chin
- ✓ Incursions across the LAC by Chinese forces.
- ✓ The Nathu La episode of 1967
- ✓ Doklam standoff in 2017
- ✓ Salami-slicing of the Rui village of Nepalese Gorkha District
- ✓ Claiming 740 sq km of the Sakteng Wild Life Sanctuary in Eastern Bhutan

- Seizure of the
 - ✓ Paracel Islands in 1974,
 - ✓ Johnson Reef in 1988,
 - ✓ Mischief Reef in 1995 and,
 - ✓ Scarborough Shoal (2012).
-
- Hydrocarbon-exploration leases and asserting fishing rights in the South and the East China Sea.
 - The receding exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of countries on the South China Sea.
 - Luring of debt-ridden Dushanbe in 2011 to give away 1,158 square kilometers of land in the Pamir Mountains. Today, the Tajiks owe the Chinese US\$1.2 billion of their total foreign debt of \$2.9 billion.

(ii)Debt Trap Diplomacy

- ✓ Control over Kenya's profitable Mombasa port.
- ✓ Papua New Guinea (PNG) owes heavily to the Exim Bank of China.
- ✓ Control over Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka,
- ✓ Control over Gwadar Port in Pakistan
- ✓ Most of economy of **Djibouti** is Chinese-owned.
- ✓ Egypt and Ethiopia also face debt traps.

- ✓ China has already captured the strategic port location in the region through its debt-trap diplomacy. For example:
 - The Doraleh multipurpose port in Djibouti,
 - Gwadar & Karachi Deepwater port in Pakistan,
 - Hambantota in Srilanka, &
 - Kyaukpyu port in Myanmar have already been completed.

(iii)Cultural inroads

- ✓ Mushrooming of China-based think-tanks in the US and European Union.
- ✓ Establishment of Confucius Institutes for spreading Chinese culture and language in Australia, the UK and the US. More than 100 such institutes operate in US universities already.
- ✓ Teaching of Mandrin. Currently, it is being taught in 85 institutions in Nepal.

(iv)Technology

- Stealing of cutting-edge technology by China from global leaders.

(v)Demographic change, diluting traditions

- The acquisition of Tibet.
- ✓ There has been attempts of Sinicization of Tibet).
- ✓ Beijing passed an “ethnic unity” law to increase assimilation pressures on Tibetans.
- Acquisition of Xinjiang
- Capture of Aksai Chin

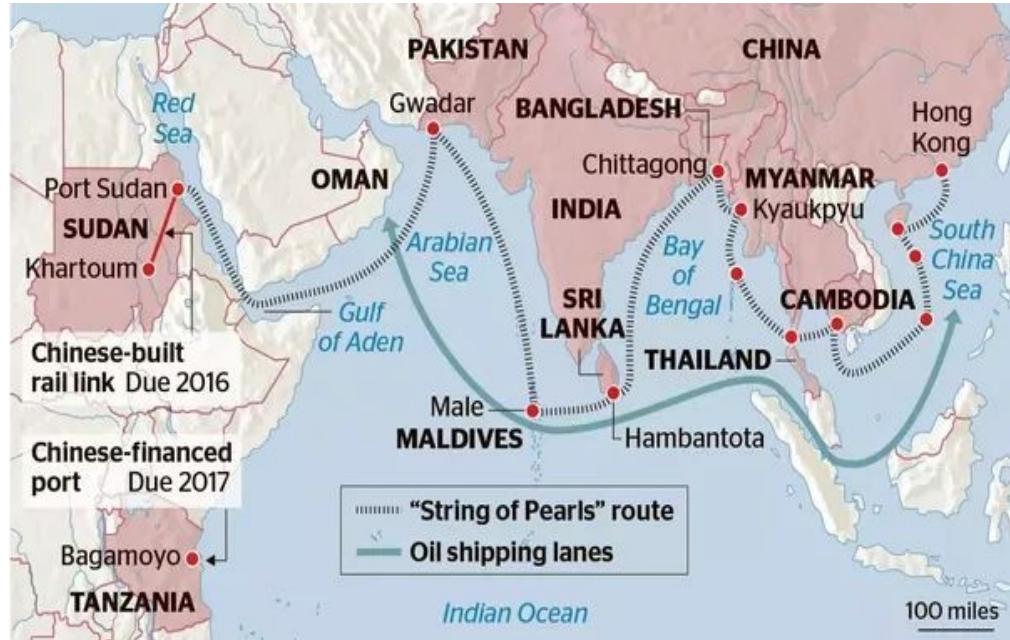
Conclusion

“Patience is power; with time and patience, the mulberry leaf becomes a silk gown.”

China's String of Pearls diplomacy

China has already captured the strategic port location in the region through its debt-trap diplomacy. For example:

- ✓ The Doraleh multipurpose port in Djibouti,
- ✓ Gwadar & Karachi Deepwater port in Pakistan,
- ✓ Hambantota & CICT Terminal in Srilanka, &
- ✓ Kyaukpyu port in Myanmar have already been completed.



What are the implications of the String of Pearl's doctrine?

OR

Impact of String of Pearls on India

How has India Responded to the String of Pearl's Doctrine so Far?

India's Necklace of Diamonds' policy or Iron curtain strategy.

India's Necklace of Diamonds' policy or Iron curtain strategy



Implication of Necklace of diamond policy

The strategy involves

- ✓ Building ports,
- ✓ Extensive Coastal Surveillance Radar (CSR) systems to track Chinese Warships and Submarines,
- ✓ Importing state of the art surveillance planes which can track down Chinese submarines,
- ✓ Operating Airport in the neighbouring country.
- ✓ Deepening defence ties,
- ✓ Expanding bilateral relations.
- ✓ Carrying out regular military exercises.

India's Strategic Bases

- 1) Changi Naval Base, Singapore (2018)
- 2) Sabang Port, Indonesia (2018)
- 3) Duqm Port, Oman (2018)
- 4) Assumption Island, Seychelles (2015)
- 5) Chabahar Port, Iran (2016)
- 6) Myanmar – India built a deep water port in Sittwe in 2016.
- 7) Bangladesh – India would help Bangladesh modernize Sea Port in Mongla. India can also use the Chittagong port in Bangladesh.

Enhancing relations with other nations to garland China.

1)Mongolia

2)Japan : India and Japan have jointly declared to built the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC).

3)Vietnam

4) Central Asia

Other Actions taken by India to counter China

1)India's Act East Policy

2)Military and Naval relationships

3) Building Coastal Surveillance Radar Systems in

- Bangladesh
- The Maldives
- Sri Lanka
- Mauritius
- Seychelles

4) Connecting diplomatically in countries like Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Mongolia.

5) Signing pact with France: It grants the Indian navy access to important French ports including one in Djibouti, home to China's single overseas military base.

6) Setting up the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) --in Gurugram.

Concerns of India regarding Necklace of diamond policy

India's Necklace of Diamonds has a major concern regarding support by 'Five eyes'.

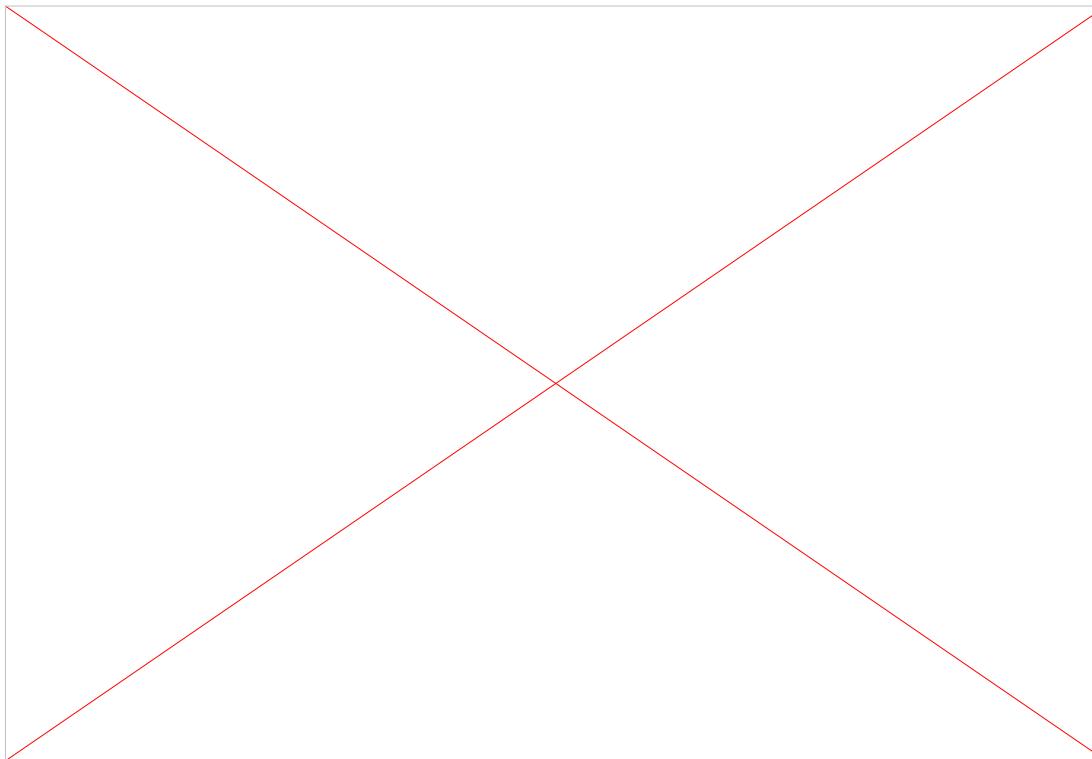
The Five Eyes comprise New Zealand, Australia, the US, Canada and the UK. It is an alliance for joint intelligence.

India and one China policy

What is One China Policy? Differentiate it from One China Principle. What is India's position? 2017

Taiwan issue

Context: 2 August 2022.----US speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan that was not being well received by China.



Why are US-China Loggerheads over Taiwan?

Why Taiwan is important to China

Why Taiwan is important for US

The strategy encompasses three island chains- the First Island Chain, the Second Island Chain and the Third Island Chain, all three of which are in the Pacific Ocean.

It has been proposed to create a Fourth and a Fifth Island Chain too in the Indian Ocean. Thus, the five Island Chains of the Island Chain Strategy would checkmate China and contain its dreams for control over the Indo-Pacific region.

The First Island Chain comprises the Kuril Islands, the Japanese Archipelago, Ryukyu Islands, Taiwan, northwest Philippines and ending at Borneo.

What has been the Stand of India on the Taiwan Issue

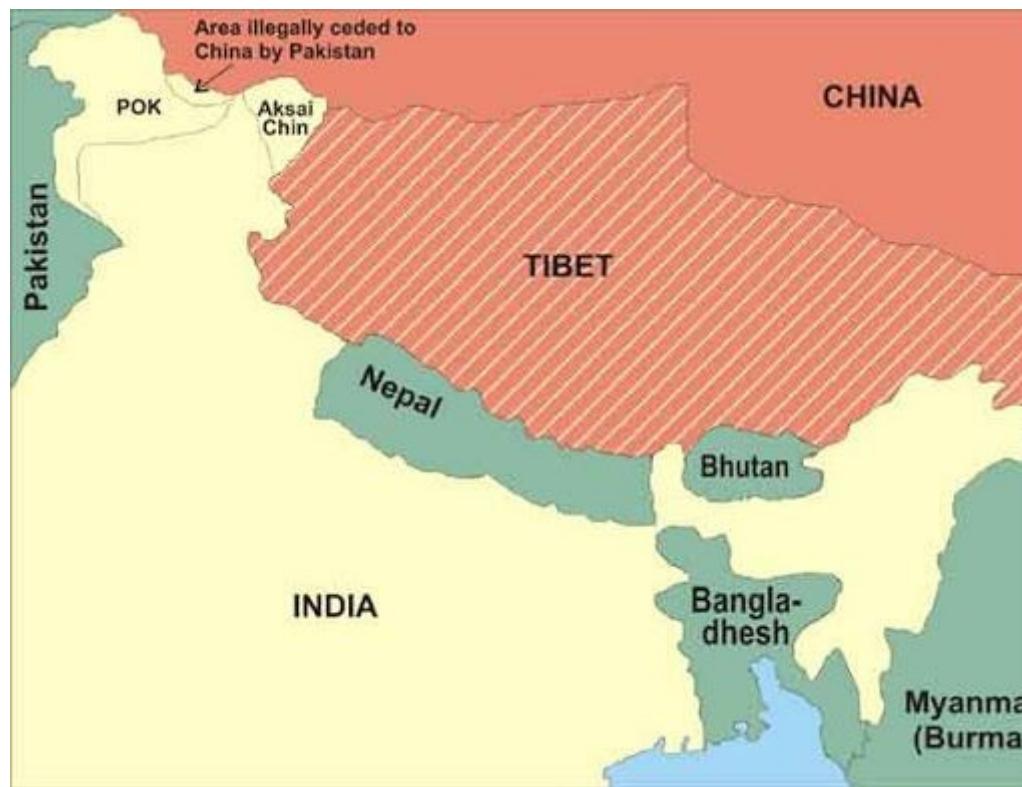
Tibet issue

India's Tibet Policy

Context: May 2022

U.S. Special Coordinator on Tibet Uzra Zeya met with the ‘Sikyong’ or leader of the self-styled Central Tibetan Administration Penpa Tsering to Dharamshala (Himachal Pradesh).

Where is Tibet?



How it came to be ruled by China?

The People's Republic of China asserts that Tibet has been a part of China since the Mongol-led Yuan dynasty.

- 1) Tibet declared itself as an independent nation in 1912.
- 2) It functioned as an autonomous region until 1950.
- 3) In 1949, the Communists under Mao Zedong's leadership gained power.
- 4) In 1950 China seized control of Tibet.
- 5) In 1951, the Dalai Lama's representatives signed a seventeen-point agreement that granted China sovereignty over Tibet for the first time.

Background of India's Tibet Policy

- 1)For centuries**, Tibet was India's actual neighbour, as most of India's boundaries and the 3500km LAC is with the Tibetan Autonomous Region, and not the rest of China.
- 2)1914**--Signing of the Shimla convention with British India that delineated boundaries.
- 3)1950**--China's full accession of Tibet in 1950. It repudiated the convention and the McMahon line that divided the two countries.
- 4)1954**--India signed an agreement with China, agreeing to recognize Tibet as “Tibet region of China”.

- 5) 1959---Tibetan uprising--the Dalai Lama (spiritual leader of Tibetan people) and many of his followers fled to India.
- 6) Former Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru gave him and Tibetan refugees shelter, and helped in setting up the Tibetan government in exile.
- 7) The official Indian policy is that the Dalai Lama is a spiritual leader, and the Tibetan community in India, with more than a lakh exiles, is not allowed to undertake any political activity.

Shift in India's Tibet Policy

Challenges Associated with India's Approach to Tibet Policy

GS Paper 2

International Relations

Regional groupings /Agreements concerning South Asia

SAARC

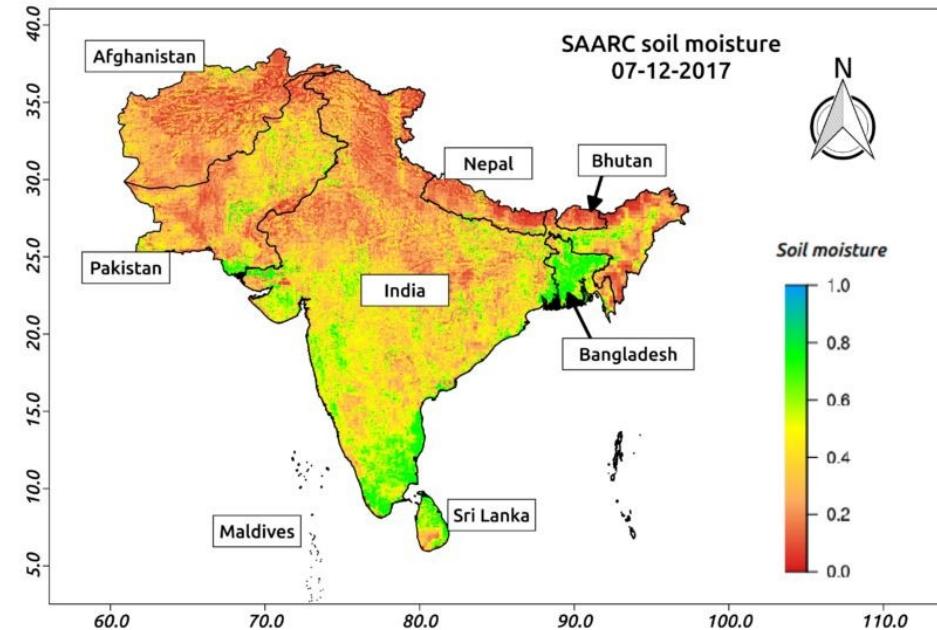
Dr. Shruti Joshi

Context

- **September 2022**--The annual SAARC foreign minister's meeting, which usually happens on the side lines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) summit in New York, was cancelled this year.
- **Jan 2022**---Pakistan reiterated its offer to host the long pending summit of SAARC. SAARC member countries turned down Pakistan's proposal. India said that there has been no material change in the situation since 2014 and there is no consensus that would allow the holding of the summit.
- In 2021 also the meeting of foreign ministers from SAARC countries got cancelled.

How SAARC came into being?

1) Cold War-era politics of regionalism.



2) Regional necessity

The idea of regional cooperation in South Asia was first raised in November 1980.

8th December 1985: SAARC got established.

Few Facts about SAARC

Number of Member Countries in SAARC

8 Countries – India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Pakistan.

Afghanistan became the newest member of SAARC at the 14th annual summit in 2007.

Number of Observers in SAARC

9 Observers – Australia, European Union (E.U), Iran, Japan, Mauritius, South Korea, United States of America (USA), China, Myanmar.

SAARC Headquarters

Kathmandu, Nepal

Launch of SAARC Satellite for South Asia

2017

SAARC Potential future members – Turkey and Russia have also applied for SAARC membership.

Current Secretary-General of SAARC	Esala Ruwan Weerakoon (Sri Lanka) – Took office from 1st March 2020.
Last Member to Join SAARC	Afghanistan (April 2007)
Last SAARC Summit	19th SAARC Summit in Pakistan (Cancelled)

Significance of SAARC for India

- SAARC comprises 3% of the world's area, 21% of the world's population and 3.8% (US\$2.9 trillion) of the global economy.
- Creating synergies
- Common solutions
- Further Neighbourhood first policy.

- . **Game changer for India's Act East Policy**
- . **Geostrategic significance**
- . **Enabler of Regional stability**
- . **Offer global leadership role to India**

What are its Achievements?

- **Free Trade Area (FTA)**
- **SAPTA: South Asia Preferential Trading Agreement** for promoting trade amongst the member countries came into effect in 1995.
- **SAFTA: A Free Trade Agreement** confined to goods, but excluding all services like information technology.
- **SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS)**
- **SAARC University**

Ques/- Critically analyse if SAARC has been of relevance in the past. Also discuss how it can be of greater relevance in the future. (150 Words)

Ques/ Discuss the potential and issues of SAARC as an organisation to emerge as a successful model of cooperation among nations in a region.

OR

Discuss the reasons for the failure of SAARC as a regional organisation.

Ans: Potential of SAARC to emerge as a successful model of cooperation among nations in a region.

- **Demography:** SAARC constitutes for 21% of the world's population and most of its population is young.
- **Economy:** SAARC comprises 3.8% (US\$2.9 trillion) of the global economy.
- **Security:**
- **International cooperation**
- **Environmental cooperation**

Discuss the associated challenges on the working of SAARC

Ques/-Discuss the need for revival of SAARC

How can SAARC be rejuvenated or revived?/ What could be the way forward?

GS Paper 2

International Relations

Regional groupings /Agreements concerning South Asia

BIMSTEC

Dr. Shruti Joshi

Context

- **August 2022**---Tenzin Lekphell, the Secretary-General of the seven nation grouping BIMSTEC came for a four-day visit to India beginning August 22 to explore ways to take forward the bloc's cooperative agenda.
- **June 6, 2022** ---marked the completion of 25 years since the 1997 Bangkok.
- **30th March 2022**---The 5th Summit of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was hosted by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in and from Colombo, Sri Lanka, in hybrid mode.



Importance of BIMSTEC

- Accounts for **22%** of the world's population
- Combined GDP of **\$2.7 trillion**
- One-fourth of the world's traded goods cross the Bay every year
- Six focus areas - trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries

What is BIMSTEC

- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional multilateral organisation.
- Its members lie in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.

- **Out of the 7 members,**
 - **Five are from South Asia –**
 - Bangladesh
 - Bhutan
 - India
 - Nepal
 - Sri Lanka
 - **Two are from Southeast Asia –**
 - Myanmar
 - Thailand

What is the Genesis of BIMSTEC?

- This sub-regional organization came into being in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- Initially, it was formed with four Member States with the acronym ‘BIST-EC’ (Bangladesh, India, Sri-Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation).
- It became renamed ‘BIMST-EC’ in 1997, following the inclusion of Myanmar.
- With the admission of Nepal and Bhutan in 2004, the name of the grouping was changed to ‘Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation’ (BIMSTEC).

What are the Principles of BIMSTEC?

- Sovereign Equality
- Territorial Integrity
- Political Independence
- No-interference in Internal Affairs
- Peaceful Co- existence
- Mutual Benefit
- Constitute an addition to and not be a substitute for bilateral, regional or multilateral cooperation involving the Member States.

What is the potential of BIMSTEC?

- 1)Bridge between South and South East Asia.**
- 2)Platform for intra-regional cooperation between SAARC and ASEAN members.**
- 3)High Growth Potential:** Home to around 1.5 billion people that constitute around 22% of the global population and a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 3.8 trillion.

4) Huge Market: BIMSTEC grouping is home to around 1.5 billion people that constitute around 22% of the global population.

5) Major Shipping route: A fourth of the world's traded goods cross the Bay of Bengal every year.

6) Important Connectivity Projects:

- **Kaladan Multimodal Project** – links India and Myanmar.
- **Asian Trilateral Highway** - connecting India and Thailand through Myanmar.
- **Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement** - for seamless flow of passenger and cargo traffic.

What is significance of BIMSTEC from maritime perspective

- 1) Ecological Importance:** Bay of Bengal is home to mangrove forests of around 15,792 square kilometres, coral reefs of around 8,471 sq.km, sea grass meadows, fragile estuaries and mass nesting sites of sea turtles.
- 2) Fish resources:** It is an important fishing region with an annual fish catch of around six million tonnes, constituting 7% of the world's catch and valued at around U.S.\$4 billion.
- 3) Support to Livelihood:** Approximately 185 million people are dependent on the natural resources provided by the bay. The fishermen population alone is estimated to be around 3.7 million.

What is the Significance of BIMSTEC for India?

1) Manifestation of three important component of foreign policy

2. Strategic advantage due to proximity with Strait of Malacca : Nearly one quarter of world's traded goods transit through the strait of Malacca. The Bay of Bengal and Strait of Malacca are directly connected, so this grouping can have direct impact on the trade passing through strait of Malacca.

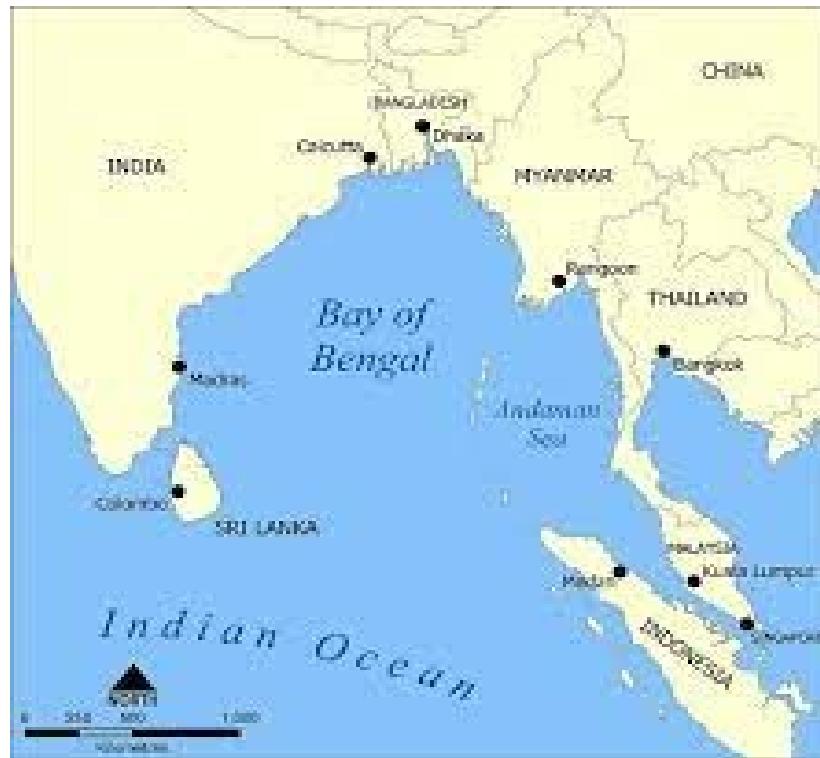
3. Materialising Sagarmala Project

4)Development of India's North-East

5)Counter China

6)Alternative to SAARC

7)Showcases Indian Leadership in region





BIMSTEC : A Big Opportunity

Revival after 2016

- Following the Uri attack in October 2016, India increased its efforts to promote BIMSTEC.
- The BIMSTEC members approved India's plan to boycott the SAARC conference in Islamabad in November 2016.
- Consequently, the SAARC summit has been postponed indefinitely, and India has switched its attention to other regional organisations such as BIMSTEC and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

Key Achievements

1) Much has been achieved in

- **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief**
- **security including counterterrorism, cyber security and coastal security cooperation.**

2) **BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks**

3) **BIMSTEC Energy Centre in Bengaluru**

4)BIMSTEC Business Council

5)BIMSTEC Transport Connectivity Working Group

6)Some key agreements signed by BIMSTEC members include **a convention for combating terrorism, transnational organised crime and illicit drug trafficking**. However, this awaits ratification.

7)BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection

8)2016---**India held a joint BRICS-BIMSTEC Summit in Goa** for the latter's regional outreach.

Key highlights of the BIMSTEC 5th summit?

- The theme of the fifth summit is “**Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies, and Healthy People.**”
- The main outcome of the fifth summit was the adoption and signing of the BIMSTEC Charter, which formalises the grouping into an organisation comprised of member states that are coastal and dependent on the Bay of Bengal. The members are expected to convene **once every two years** under this charter. As a result of the charter, it now has an international personality, an emblem, and a flag. The charter was aimed at **transforming BIMSTEC into a full-fledged regional organisation with a “distinct international personality”**.

- Adoption of the “Master Plan for Transport Connectivity,” which lays out a framework for future connectivity-related activities in the region.
- Member country leaders have agreed to divide the grouping’s work into seven segments, with India leading the security pillar.
- India will contribute one million US dollars to the operational budget of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation secretariat.

Major Challenges and Issues

What could be the Way Forward?

As SAARC becomes functionally defunct, can BIMSTEC play the role of a better alternative for technological and economic cooperation among South Asian countries in its stead? Comment



Pakistan
Maldives
Afghanistan

India
Nepal
Sri Lanka
Bhutan
Bangladesh

Thailand
Myanmar

GS Paper 2

International Relations

India and its Neighbourhood

Indo-Maldives Relations

Dr. Shruti Joshi

Why is Maldives important for India?

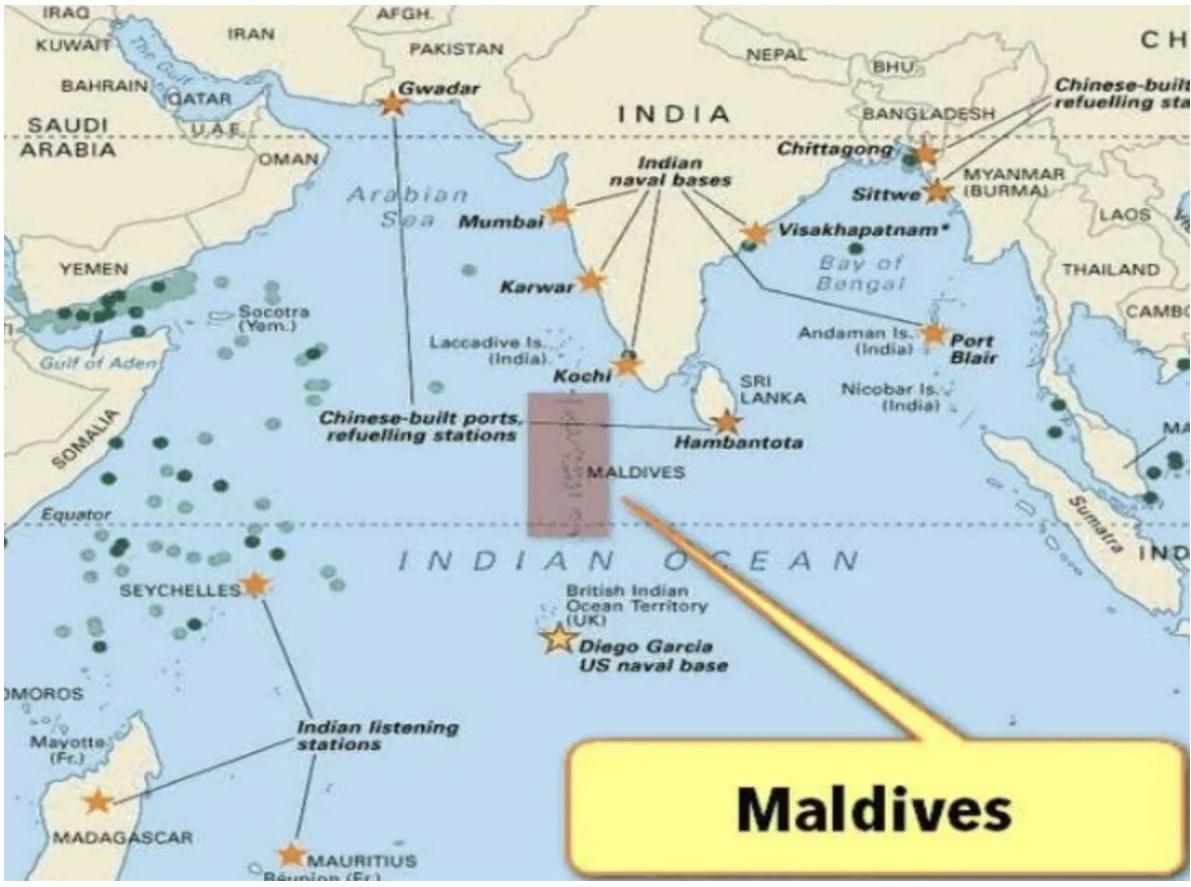
India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links and enjoy close, cordial and multi-dimensional relations.

1) Security

- Political
- Maritime



2) Economic Importance



3)Diaspora

The Maldives is home to around 25,000 Indian citizens (the second largest expatriate community).

Decoding Maldives Political History and India's role

1965—26 July 1965 an agreement was signed between British and Sultan of Maldives which formally ended the British authority.

1967—A vote was taken in parliament to decide whether the Maldives should continue as a constitutional Monarchy or become a republic.

1968---A national referendum was held, 853-year-old monarchy got ended, Ibrahim Nasir became the President.

1970s---Increase in Tourism.

1975-78---Political infighting started.

- **1978**---Maumoon Abdul Gayoom became President.
- **1980-83**---A series of coup attempts by Nasir supporters.
- **1988**---Operation Cactus by India to defeat the attempted coup.
- **2003**—Mohamed Nasheed founded the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) in 2003 and pressured Maumoon into allowing gradual political reforms.
- **2004**---The Maldives were devastated by a tsunami.

2008—A new constitution was approved and Nasheed won Presidential election. He started taking measures to reduce fiscal deficit.

2012—Nasheed resigned and Mohammed Waheed Hassan was sworn in as president.

2013—Elections took place, Abdulla Yameen half-brother of the former president Maumoon, assumed the presidency.

2015—Assassination attempt on Abdulla Yameen. State of emergency declared.

2018—Ibrahim Mohamed Solih became the new President.

Causes of Stress in Indo Maldives Relationship

1) Radicalisation

2) Political Turbulence

3) China's Concern

Official Visit of President of the Republic of Maldives, Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih to India (August 01–04, 2022)

The joint statement stated that PM Modi underlined Maldives’ “special place” in India’s “Neighbourhood first” policy, while President Solih “reaffirmed his government’s “India-First Policy”.”

1) Security

- The two sides reiterated that they would not allow their territory to be used against the other. This partnership is a force for stability in the Indian Ocean Region.
- To counter the threat of transnational crime, terrorism and drug trafficking in the Indian Ocean region

2)Male connectivity project

The two leaders also welcomed the launch of the Great Male Connectivity Project.

- ✓ It is a USD 500 million project funded by New Delhi.
- ✓ It will consist of a 6.74 km-long bridge and going to be the largest civilian infrastructure project in Maldives, connecting Male with three neighbouring islands(Villingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi).
- ✓ It will use renewable energy.
- ✓ It is not only the biggest project India is doing in the Maldives but also the biggest infrastructure project in the Maldives overall.
- ✓ It carries huge Significance.

Significance of Great Male Connectivity Project

3) Agreements

- Cybersecurity
- Capacity Building
- Housing
- Disaster Management
- Infrastructure Development
- India announced USD100 million financial aid to help the island-nation complete certain infrastructure projects.

Areas of cooperation

1) Security Partnership

Recently, the **National College for Policing and Law Enforcement (NCPLE)** was inaugurated by India's External Affairs Minister during his two day visit to Maldives in 2022.

2)Development Partnership

- Operation Neer
 - Signing of an USD80-million contract for the Addu reclamation and shore protection project.
 - A drug detoxification and rehabilitation centre in Addu built with Indian assistance.
 - Economic recovery package – India had offered Maldives an economic recovery package of \$1.4 billion during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the island nation in December 2018.
- ✓ Line of credit
- ✓ currency swap deal.

- Infrastructure development projects
- Covid-19 support-
- Male connectivity project.

3) Economic Cooperation

4) Connectivity

5)Anti Terror Operations

The Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism, Countering Violent Extremism, and Deradicalization was convened with participation from both sides.

6)Global Support

Challenges

1) Domestic Political Instability

2) Radicalisation: Turning a hub of terrorists

3) Economic challenge

4) Growth of Anti-India sentiments -‘India Out’ campaign

5)Lack of transparency

6) Misunderstanding regarding India's efforts

- Uthuru Thila Falhu (UTF) Naval Base**

7) China Angle

Way Forward

GS Paper 2

International Relations

Regional groupings /Agreements in South Asia

Indo Pacific Region

Dr. Shruti Joshi

Context:

March 2023: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida arrived in India for a two-day visit.

PM Kishida has said that a new plan on Free and Open Indo-Pacific will be announced during his two-day visit to India and will present concrete ideas about the future of it at "this historical turning point." **(Japan's New Plan for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP))**

As per the official Twitter handle of the Japan PMO, "This year, Japan holds the G7 presidency while India chairs the G20. Prime Minister Modi and I will exchange views on the role our two countries should play as we work to resolve mounting international challenges."

What is 'Indo Pacific' Region?

- It refers to the confluence of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, which interconnect in Southeast Asia.



What is significance of Indo Pacific region?

- Demographic significance
- Economic significance
- Strategic significance
- Mineral Resources

Discuss the Recent Geo-Political Developments in the Indo-Pacific Region?

1)US' Indo-Pacific Strategy

2)EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy

3)Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific(FOIP)

Pillars of cooperation' under the new FOIP:

1)Principles for peace and rules for prosperity: Japan wants to engage in economic development programmes such as promoting the implementation of the **G-20 Principles for “Quality Infrastructure Investment”** in Vulnerable countries.

2)Addressing challenges in an Indo-Pacific way: such as:

- climate change
- food security
- global health
- cybersecurity

3)Multi-layered connectivity:

- **Introducing connectivity projects** are Southeast Asia, South Asia and the South Pacific/Pacific Island countries.
- **New commitment of \$100 million** towards the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (It will promote the Bay of Bengal-Northeast India industrial value chain concept in cooperation with India and Bangladesh)
- **New Palau International Airport Terminal project** (an archipelago in the western Pacific Ocean) supported by Japan has also taken off.

4)Extending efforts for security and safe use of the “sea” to the “air”: Japan will help strengthening the capabilities of maritime law enforcement agencies in other countries.

- **Japan will implement the** “strategic use of Official Development Assistance (ODAs)”
- **Japan would “mobilize” a total of more than \$75 billion** in public and private funds in the Indo-Pacific region by **2030** in infrastructure development.

4)QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue)

Quad or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is a group of ‘four like-minded countries’ i.e., India, US, Australia and Japan.

Evolution of QUAD

- **Initiation Phase:** The US, Japan, India and Australia came together in the aftermath of the **2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.** Later, officials of the four countries met in 2007 “to look at issues of common interest.” These meeting led to the genesis of the concept of Indo-Pacific.
- **Dormant Phase:** After the initial meetings, Australia pulled out of the grouping citing **China’s apprehensions regarding it.** This resulted in the grouping going into the dormant phase and the activity staying limited to the trilateral (Japan, India and US) or at times bilateral (India and US) Malabar exercise.
- **Revival Phase:** In 2017, the dialogue was revised on fringes of East Asia Summit (EAS) in Philippines.

Need/ Objective of QUAD

Shared vision for an Indo-Pacific region that is free, open, resilient and inclusive.

- ✓ **To ensure that the Indo-Pacific is accessible and dynamic, governed by international law.**
- ✓ **To ensure a free and open international order based on the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific.**
 - Maritime security,
 - Addressing the risks of climate change,
 - Creating an ecosystem for investment in the region
 - Boosting technological innovation.
 - Building Supply Chain resilience which is not dependent on China
 - Combating the Covid-19 crisis, especially vis-à-vis vaccine diplomacy,

Recent Context

March 2023---Quad Foreign Ministers' Meet in New Delhi--The Foreign Ministers of Quad countries reaffirmed the grouping's commitment for a free and open Indo-Pacific and said it strongly supports the rule of law, sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful settlement of disputes, in comments seen as an oblique message to China.

It was announced that a Quad working group on counter-terrorism would be established to explore measures to counter new and emerging forms of terrorism, radicalisation and violent extremism.

The ministers vowed to work closely to align and complement Quad's agenda with Japan's presidency of the G7, India's presidency of the G20 and the United States' APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) "host year" in 2023.

Japanese foreign minister Hayashi said , “This is not a military group. We don't try to exclude anybody, including China. As long as China abide by international norm and laws then this is not a conflicting issue between China and Quad”.

Australian foreign minister noted the leadership role India plays in bringing global powers and agendas on a platform. Calling India an integral force, Australia FM said, “India is a critical power, great power in the region that there is no reshaping of the Indo-Pacific without India. We've seen that India is a civilisational power that brings a different perspective to some of the challenges of this time.”

Indian EAM S Jaishankar listed three main agendas or issues that QUAD needs to address.

“Three big issues that Quad and the World needs to address and I think Quad can address and can make a difference. First, more reliable and resilient supply chain, the second digital challenge of trust and transparency and third connectivity,” he said.

Mid 2023—QUAD Summit in Sidney, Australia.

Sep 2022----The foreign ministers of India, United States, Japan and Australia met and signed a set of guidelines on Quad's partnership on humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR).

India and QUAD

Positive Impact

- In line with India's regional power ambitions and the vision of being the Net Security Provider in the region
- Building India's manufacturing capacity
- Support during potential bilateral dispute with China
- Garnering support on global issues

The negative impact could be-

- Escalation of border issues
- Direct impact on the economic relationship
- Cannot get military support from OUAD

Challenges in the functioning of QUAD

- **Assertiveness of China**
- **Challenge from China as the most important trading partner in the region**
- **Diverse Approach of Member Countries**

- **Assertiveness of China**
- **Challenge from China as the most important trading partner in the region**
- **Diverse Approach of Member Countries**

- **QUAD is transforming into a trade block from a military alliance in present time. Discuss. (Mains 2020)**

5) AUKUS

New trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific, between Australia, the UK and the US.

Q. The new tri-nation partnership AUKUS is aimed at countering China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. Is it going to supersede the existing partnerships in the region? Discuss the strength and impact of AUKUS in the present scenario. **(Mains 2021)**

6)Indo-Pacific Economic Framework

- Aims to It is a US-led initiative
- strengthen economic partnership among participating countries to enhance resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness in the Indo Pacific Ocean.
- Launched in 2021
- Not a Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

- The negotiations will be along four main pillars.
 - Supply-chain resilience
 - Clean energy, decarbonisation & infrastructure
 - Taxation & anti-corruption
 - Fair & resilient trade.
- Currently, **India and 13 countries located in the Pacific Ocean** are its members,
 - Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States, and Vietnam.

Recent Context:

Sep 2022---The Minister of Commerce & Industry addressed the **IPEF Ministerial meeting in the US**, where India decided to stay away from the Fair & resilient trade Pillar. **India agreed to three out of four pillars, which are Supply Chains, Tax & Anti Corruption and Clean energy.**

March 2023---An Inter-Ministerial delegation from India led by Department of Commerce participated in the second Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) negotiating round in Bali, Indonesia from March 13-19, 2023. During the Bali Round, discussions covered all the four pillars of the IPEF: Trade (Pillar I); Supply Chain (Pillar II); Clean Economy (Pillar III); and Fair Economy (Taxation & Anticorruption) - (Pillar IV). India participated in the discussions related to Pillars II to IV.

What are the Major Challenges in the Indo-Pacific Region?

- Aggressive Policies of Certain Countries
- China's rising assertiveness
- Unwillingness to Act Against China
- Issues with IPEF
- Terrorism

Ques/- Examine the strategic significance of Indo-Pacific region for India. Also, discuss how India should tackle Chinese dominance in Indo-Pacific region?

Way Forward

GS Paper 2

International Relations

Regional groupings /Agreements in South Asia

Indian Ocean Region

Dr. Shruti Joshi

Context

- 1) April 2023--As per the report, China has, for the first time, announced 33 fixed reference sections to be surveyed by its ocean research vessels, which engulf significant regions in the South China Sea (SCS), Taiwan Strait, the western Pacific along with the eastern part of the Indian Ocean.**
- 2) March 2023---The third edition of the France-led multilateral exercise La Pérouse is being conducted in the Indian Ocean region with participation by the navies of Quad countries—India, Japan and Australia and the US—and the UK's Royal Navy.**
The first edition of the France-initiated La Pérouse multinational exercise was held in 2019 and saw the participation of the navies of Australia, Japan and the US. In the second edition in 2021, the Indian Navy joined in for the first time. The third edition will witness the participation of personnel, ships and integral helicopters of the five navies.
The indigenously built guided missile frigate INS Sahyadri and fleet tanker INS Jyoti will be participating in this edition

3) June 2022--- National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said the Indian Ocean Region has a potential for a clash of interests and that the country should be vigilant to protect its important asset.

4) August 2021--- India has proposed to convene an open debate of the UNSC on enhancing maritime security.

What is IOR?

- The IOR broadly defines areas consisting of littoral states of the Indian Ocean.
- IOR comprises a number of sub-regions, such as Australia, South East Asia, South Asia, Horn of Africa and the Southern and Eastern Africa.



Ques/- Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is important for Indian security. Considering this, discuss India's key initiatives in IOR or

Considering this, discuss India's policy of 'Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) for IOR islands.

Ans/- Importance of Indian Ocean for India

1) Long Maritime Boundary

2) Home to 51 percent of India's proven oil reserves and 66 percent of natural gas reserves.

3) Energy security

4) Securing Sea lanes of Communication or major international choke points: In the Indian Ocean, three major Sea Lanes Of Communication (SLOCs) play a crucial role in the energy security and economic prosperity:

- ✓ **SLOC connecting the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean through the Bab al-Mandab** (that transports the bulk of Asia's international trade with its major trading partners in Europe and America),
- ✓ **SLOC connecting the Persian Gulf to the Indian Ocean through the Strait of Hormuz** (transporting the bulk of energy exports to **major import destinations like India, ASEAN and East Asia**),
- ✓ **SLOC connecting the Indian and Pacific Oceans through the Straits of Malacca** (integral to the smooth flow of trade with ASEAN, East Asia, Russia's Far East and the US)

5)Trade security

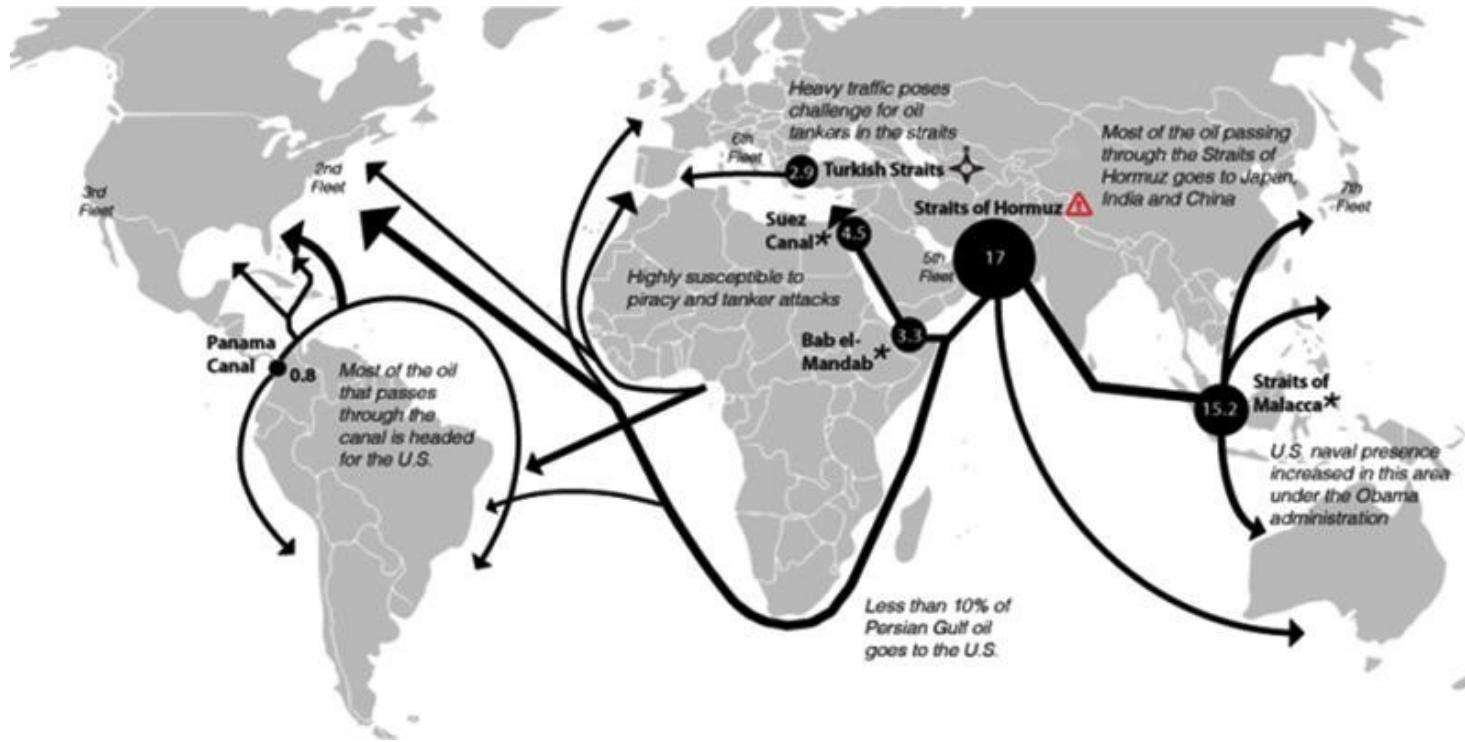
6)Abundance of natural Resources

7)Security threats

8)Non traditional threats

Major Sea lanes of Communication or Major International Choke Points





India's key initiatives in IOR

1) India's 5 point framework for maritime security

On August 2021---Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a debate on maritime security at UNSC.

- i) Removal of barriers to maritime trade
- ii) Peaceful resolution of maritime disputes
- iii) Jointly tackling maritime threats
- iv) Protection and conservation
- v) Responsible maritime connectivity

2) Security and Growth For All in the Region (SAGAR) programme

Major focus under SAGAR initiative:

- 1) Enhancing capacities to safeguard land and maritime territories and interest
- 2) Deepening economic and security cooperation(Blue Economy initiatives)
- 3) Disaster management:
 - ✓ India's support to Madagascar which was ravaged by the Cyclone Ava in 2018.
 - ✓ The Indian Navy and Air Force provided 1,000 tonnes of fresh water to Male to help Maldives which is suffering from an acute drinking water crisis.

- 4)Working towards sustainable regional development through enhanced collaboration
- 5)Engaging with countries
- 6)Abiding by the International Law
- 7)Data Sharing

3) Mission Sagar

Mission Sagar was a COVID-19 relief mission launched by the government of India in May 2020 as a part of its efforts to provide essential aid to the Indian Ocean countries. Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros, and Seychelles were among the nations included.

Ques: Discuss key challenges to India's Maritime Doctrine

1) Silos Approach in the Indian Ocean

2) Lesser Hold on Strategic Chokepoint:

- China's first overseas military base was set up in the western Indian Ocean, in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa.
- Russia too recently acquired a base in Sudan, on the Red Sea coast, between the Suez Canal and Bab-el-Mandeb.

3)Increasing Chinese Assertiveness:

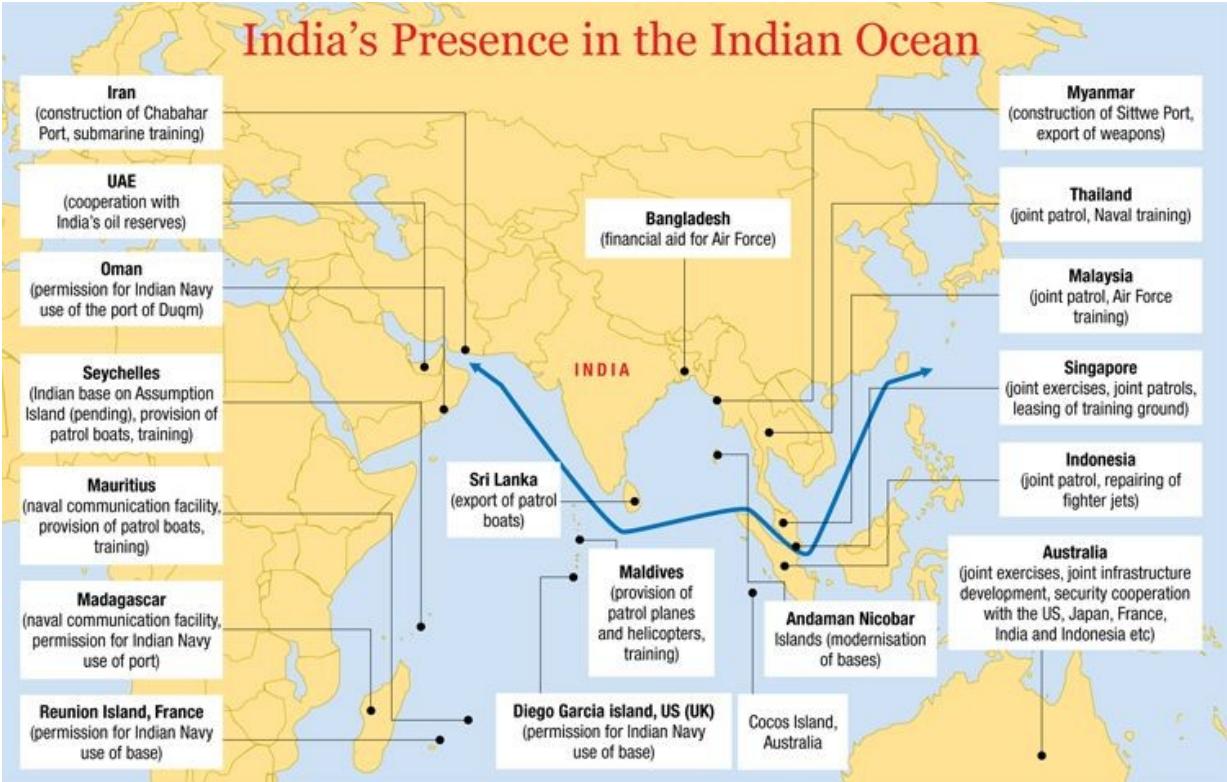
A Chinese defence official – “The Indian Ocean is not India’s ocean.”

Examples of China’s growing assertiveness in IOR:

- April 2023---As per the report, China has, for the first time, announced 33 fixed reference sections to be surveyed by its ocean research vessels, which engulf significant regions in the South China Sea (SCS), Taiwan Strait, the western Pacific along with the eastern part of the Indian Ocean.
- Continual monitoring of India’s tri-service military command based in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands by the Chinese navy.
- Increasing Chinese presence in Coco Island in IOR.

- Maritime Silk Road
- China is also associated with Myanmar naval bases at Munaung, Hainggyi, Katan Island and Zadaikyi Island. It is building radar, refit and refuel facilities at Khaukphyu, Mergui and Zadetkyi Kyun.
- Also constructing road and waterway links from its southern Yunan province to Myanmar's Yangon port □ which will provide it direct access to the Bay of Bengal, obviating the need to cross the Malacca straits.
- In the south western Indian Ocean, China is aggressively seeking to reduce Indian influence on Mauritius and the Maldives.

Way Forward



Conclusion

GS Paper 2

International Relations

India and Extended Neighbourhood

India and South East Asia

Dr. Shruti Joshi

India's Act East Policy

Context:

18 Mar 2021--The Union Minister of State Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) said that connectivity is an important element of Act East Policy.

India's Act East Policy focusses on the extended neighbourhood in the Asia-Pacific region.

November 2022--Recently, the Vice President of India attended the **19th ASEAN-India Summit** in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.



Evolution of Act East policy

1) Look East Policy

Domestic situation

International situation

- In this pursuit, former Prime minister of India P V Narasimha Rao launched Look East policy in 1992.
- Focus area: ASEAN countries + Economic Integration.
- 1996---India became a dialogue partner of ASEAN in 1996
- 2002----India became the summit level partner .
- 2010---India's FTA with ASEAN.
- 2012----relationship got up-graded into a Strategic Partnership.

Act East Policy

In 2014, India launched the Act East policy

- **India's situation**
- **Focus:** ASEAN countries + Economic Integration + East Asian countries + Security cooperation
- **4C's of Act East Policy.**
 - ✓ Culture
 - ✓ Commerce
 - ✓ Connectivity
 - ✓ Capacity building

Objectives of ‘Act East Policy’

- Promote economic cooperation, cultural ties, and develop a strategic relationship with countries in the Asia-Pacific region through continuous engagement at regional, bilateral, and multilateral levels.
- To enhance the connectivity of the North-Eastern Indian states with other neighbouring countries.
- To contain the growing footprints of China in the ASEAN region.
- To help establish India’s vision for the region, that is SAGAR – Security for All and Growth for All.

India has upgraded its relations to strategic partnership with

- ✓ Indonesia,
- ✓ Vietnam,
- ✓ Malaysia,
- ✓ Japan,
- ✓ Republic of Korea (ROK),
- ✓ Australia,
- ✓ Singapore and
- ✓ Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and forged close ties with all countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Key organisations related to Act East Policy

- ✓ ASEAN
- ✓ ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)
- ✓ East Asia Summit (EAS)
- ✓ BIMSTEC
- ✓ Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)
- ✓ Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC)
- ✓ Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
- ✓ QUAD

India's initiatives to strengthen the Act East Policy

- Initiatives to enhance connectivity:
 - ✓ Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project.
 - ✓ The Trilateral Highway Project connecting the North East with Myanmar and Thailand.
 - ✓ Intermodal transport linkages and inland waterways through Bangladesh.
 - ✓ Agartala-Akhaura Rail Link between India and Bangladesh.
 - ✓ Under India-Japan Act East Forum, several projects such as construction of Road and Bridges and modernization of Hydro-electric power projects have been undertaken.

- Other initiatives
- ✓ National Bamboo Mission
- ✓ Digital North East Vision 2022
- ✓ Mahabahu-Brahmaputra inland waterway project-
- ✓ Dhubri Phulbari bridge

✓ **NITI Forum for North East (2018)**

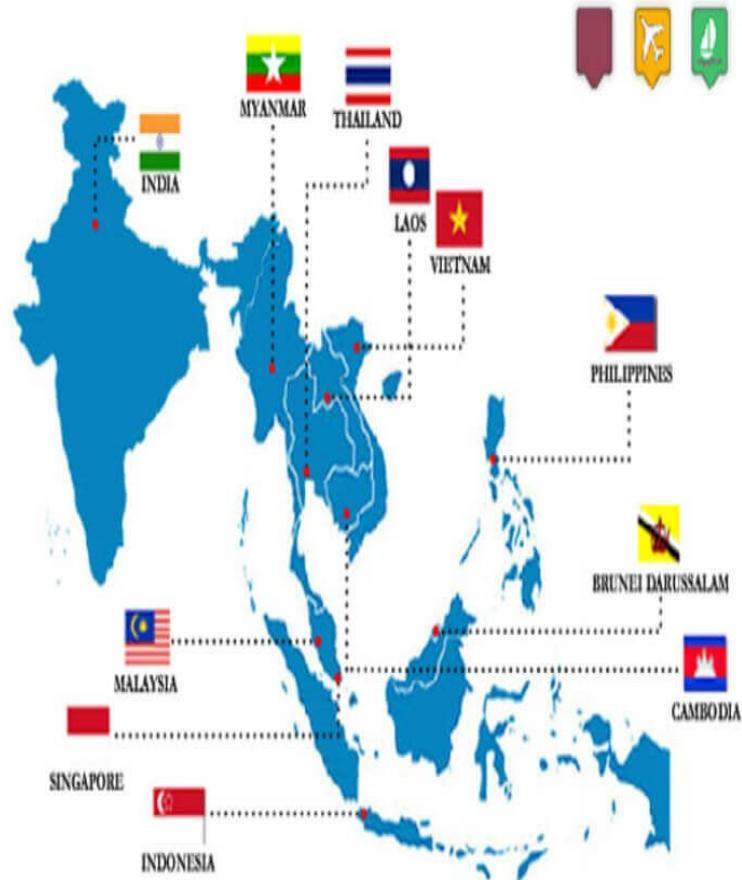
- Focussed attention on the development of NER.
- The forum examines various proposals both at the Central and the State levels and prepares plans for the speedy development of the North Eastern Region.
- The Forum proposed that the development projects in the NER would be based on the concept of “HIRA” (Highways, Inland Waterways, Railways and Airways)

Association of South East Nations (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.
- The motto of ASEAN is “One Vision, One Identity, One Community”.
- 8th August is observed as ASEAN Day.
- ASEAN Secretariat – Indonesia, Jakarta.
- **ASEAN Plus Three:** The consultative group initiated in 1997 brings together ASEAN ten members, China, Japan, and South Korea.
- ASEAN 2023 Summit: Chaired by Indonesia.

Who are the Member Nations?

- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Brunei
- Vietnam
- Laos
- Myanmar
- Cambodia



What are the Strengths of ASEAN?

The theme for Indonesia's chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2023, "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth," aims to validate Southeast Asia's status as an epicenter of economic growth.

What are the Challenges within ASEAN?

India and ASEAN

Recent Context:

- 1) Jan 2022---- 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers meeting with India.**
- 2) 15 June 2022 --The 24th ASEAN-India Senior Official's Meeting (SOM) was hosted in Delhi.**
- 3) June 2022----Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting' was held in New Delhi.**

This was to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations in 2022.

The year 2022 has been designated as the 'ASEAN-India Friendship Year'. This year also marks the tenth anniversary of India's strategic cooperation with ASEAN.

Evolution of India ASEAN relations

1992---India began formal engagement with ASEAN in 1992 as a “Sectoral Dialogue Partner”.

1996---- India became “Dialogue Partner” in 1996.

2012----The Dialogue Partnership was further elevated to a Strategic Partnership.

2018---During the 25-year Commemorative Summit in New Delhi (January 2018), India and ASEAN further agreed that the Strategic Partnership will be focused on building cooperation in the maritime domain.

2022----The year 2022 marks 30 years of ASEAN-India relations and it has been designated as ASEAN-India Friendship Year by the leaders in October 2021.

What is the Significance of ASEAN for India?

Cooperation between India and ASEAN

1) Economic Cooperation:

- ✓ The 5th ASEAN-India Business Summit took place on 6 March 2023 in Kuala Lumpur.
- ✓ ASEAN is India's fourth largest trading partner.
- ✓ Establishment of The ASEAN-India Free Trade Area.
- ✓ 2003--ASEAN India-Business Council (AIBC)--collaborates key private sector players from India and the ASEAN countries on a single platform.
- ✓ **2010----ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA).** It has created one of the world's largest free trade areas
- ✓ **2015----The ASEAN-India Trade in Services Agreement.**

2) Socio-Cultural Cooperation:

- ✓ People-to-People
- ✓ Educational collaboration with ASEAN students in India,
- ✓ Capacity building of ASEAN diplomats,
- ✓ Exchange of Parliamentarians, etc.

3) Fund Collaboration:

- ✓ ASEAN-India Cooperation Fund
- ✓ ASEAN-India S&T Development Fund
- ✓ ASEAN-India Green Fund

4) Strategic cooperation:

- ✓ India's relationship with ASEAN is foundation of India's Act East Policy.
- ✓ India has established a separate Mission to ASEAN and the EAS in Jakarta.
- ✓ Both shares glorious record of 25 years of Dialogue Partnership, 15 years of Summit Level interaction and 5 years of Strategic Partnership with ASEAN.
- ✓ 2018---Delhi Declaration 2018---to celebrate 25 years of India ASEAN relations. Importance to cooperation in the Maritime Domain.

- **Delhi Dialogue:** annual Track 1.5 forum (Key focus areas: politico-security, economic and socio-cultural).
- ASEAN is central to India India's Indo-Pacific vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region.(SAGAR)
- **ASEAN-India Centre (AIC):** Key thrust on policy research and creating synergies with organizations and think-tanks in India and ASEAN.

November 2022---Recently, the Vice President of India attended the 19th ASEAN-India Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Highlights of the Meeting:

- **Act East Policy:**
 - ✓ India-ASEAN relationship forms the central pillar of India's Act East Policy.
 - ✓ India reiterated its support to ASEAN centrality in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership:**
 - ✓ Announcing the elevation of the existing Strategic Partnership to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
 - ✓ It reiterated the commitment to enhance India-ASEAN cooperation in various areas such as maritime activities, counter-terrorism, cyber security, digital economy, environment, science & technology, tourism, among other areas.
 - ✓ It proposes expediting the review of ASEAN- India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) to make it more user-friendly, simple, and trade-facilitative.

- **Peace and Security:**
 - ✓ Both sides reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, stability, maritime safety and security, freedom of navigation and overflight in the Indo Pacific Ocean.
- **Deepening Dialogue and Coordination:**
 - ✓ As part of maintaining “**ASEAN-Centrality**”, the two sides reaffirmed the importance of deepening dialogue and coordination through ASEAN-led mechanisms including the ASEAN-India Summit, the East Asia Summit, the Post-Ministerial Conference with India (PMC+1), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF)

- **6th March 2023----The 5th ASEAN-India Business Summit in Kuala Lumpur.**

Focus of discussion--- How business linkages, connectivity and supply chain resilience can be enhanced through deeper ASEAN-India cooperation.

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Program (RCEP)

- The RCEP came into effect on January 1, 2022, marking the formation of the world's largest free trade zone in terms of trade volume.
- It is a Free Trade Agreement between 10 members of ASEAN and 5 FTA Partners (Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, South Korea) of ASEAN.
- India though is an FTA partner of ASEAN, it opted out of RCEP in November 2019.

Aims and Objectives of RCEP

- Economic objectives:
 - ✓ lower tariffs,
 - ✓ open up trade in services
 - ✓ promote investment.
- To reduce costs and time for companies— How? It allows them to export a product anywhere within the bloc without meeting separate requirements for each country.
- To deal with issues of intellectual property, but will not cover environmental protections and labour rights.

Significance of RCEP

- Demographic: Covers nearly a third of the world's population, some 2.2 billion people.
- Economic: RCEP covers about 30% of global gross domestic product (GDP), worth \$26.2 trillion (€23.17 trillion).
- Will eliminate 90% of trade tariffs within the bloc.
- RCEP will establish common rules around trade, intellectual property, e-commerce and competition.

Why did India opted out of RCEP?

Challenges within RCEP

QUES/- Keeping into mind the present global economic scenario, Do you think India should review its position on RCEP. Discuss.

Way Forward – India & ASEAN

India- Japan Relations

March 2022--- Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida visited India. He described the country as an “indispensable partner” of Japan to achieve the ambitious goal of peace, prosperity and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

9 July 2022---India announced one day national mourning as mark of respect for Shinzo Abe’s death. Later Prime Minister Modi met his Japan’s counterpart Fumio Kishida in Tokyo, where Indian Prime Minister attended Mr. Abe’s state funeral.

Sep 2022----India Japan 2+2 ministerial dialogue was held.

Significance of the 2+2 Ministerial dialogue

Q. How can India and Japan collaborate in the defence sector to cope with the China challenge? Discuss.

Japan's new strategy in tackling the threats from China

Key Challenges in path of India-Japan Relations

Ques/-“Though India and Japan shares similar interest in keeping the Indo-Pacific open and free, their bilateral cooperation is still lacking.” Comment

Way Forward

GS Paper 2

International Relations

India and Extended Neighbourhood

India and Central Asia

Dr. Shruti Joshi

Recent Context

6th December 2022----National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval hosted a meeting of his counterparts from five Central Asian countries — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan — in New Delhi on December 6. All countries except Turkmenistan sent their NSAs; Ashgabat was represented by its ambassador in New Delhi.

January 2022----First India-Central Asia virtual summit.

- Central Asia is the geographical centre of Asia.

- Modern Central Asia consists of five nations:

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

- All five nations became independent after the collapse of the USSR in 1991.



Significance of Central Asia for India

1)Geo Strategic importance: Battle for strategic space

Central Asia has always been seen as Russia's backyard.

Strategically it could be considered Central Asia as an access point or a land bridge between Europe and Asia.

2)Geo economic Importance

- Rich in natural resource:** Kazakhstan has one of the biggest reserves of uranium, besides stores of coal, lead, zinc, gold, and iron ore. The Kyrgyz Republic is rich in gold and hydro-power, and Turkmenistan has one of the world's largest reserves of natural gas. Tajikistan has huge hydro-power potential and Uzbekistan has gold, uranium, and natural gas.
- Important for ensuring energy security (TAPI)**

3)Security

- **National security:** India's only overseas airbase lies in Farkhor, Tajikistan.
- **Regional security** (due to its proximity to Pakistan and Afghanistan).
- **Central Asia has proximity to ‘Golden Crescent’ of opium production** (Iran-Pak-Afghan) and is also a victim of terrorism, illegal arms trade, narcotics trafficking and arms smuggling.

4)China’s angle

5)Connectivity

Connect Central Asia Policy

The Connect Central Asia Policy is based on - 4Cs:

1)Commerce (economic cooperation)

2)Connectivity (regional connectivity)

Two important initiatives for improving connectivity:

- **Development of the International North-South Transport Corridor(INSTC)** :INSTC is a multi-mode network of ship, rail, and road route for moving freight between India, Iran, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe.
- **Becoming a member of Ashgabat Agreement.** Came into force in April, 2016.This is a multimodal transport agreement between India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Oman, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan for creating an international transport and transit corridor.It would facilitate transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.

3)Consular (Political Cooperation and Strategic Cooperation)

4)Community (Cooperation in education, people-to-people contact, medical cooperation. Means Soft power)

Areas of Cooperation

1) Trade and Investment cooperation

Kazakhstan----largest trade and investment partner in Central Asia

2) Energy

- India has signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement with Kazakhstan . Since 2010, it has been supplying nuclear fuel to Indian nuclear plant
- The TAPI project ,a trans-country natural gas pipeline is an important act of cooperation connecting energy rich Central Asia with energy.

3)Security and Defence

- Both have common interest in ensuring stability in Afghanistan.
- Issue of terrorism and drug trafficking.
- **Khanjar** is annual joint military exercise between India and Kyrgyzstan.
- **Kazind**” is annual joint military exercise between India and Kazakhstan

Indian efforts to strengthen Cooperation with Central Asia

1) Connect Central Asia policy

2) Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) membership – Taking over the full membership of SCo, there will be more frequent summit level G2G engagement between India & CARs.

3) International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) – Launched in 2000 by Russia, India and Iran, this a multi-modal transport project for transferring goods from India to Russia and Europe via Central Asia and Iran (connecting Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea.)

4)Chabahar Port in Iran

Along with INsTC, this port is an important anchor for trade to and from Central Asia via Afghanistan.

5)Signing of Ashgabat Agreement

An international transport and transit corridor enabling transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.

The pact was signed in 2011 by Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Oman and Qatar. India joined the Ashgabat agreement in 2018 to diversify its connectivity options with Central Asia.

- 6) Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline** – Aims to supply natural gas from Turkmenistan to India, through Afghanistan and Pakistan. However, since 2006, due to Pakistan's lack of support, the project has got stalled.
- 7) Eurasian Economic Union (EEU)** – India is negotiating a comprehensive economic partnership agreement or a FTA with the Eurasian Economic Union, which include Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Armenia, and Kyrgyzstan.(Project for economic integration in the former Soviet regime)
- 8) India-Central Asia Dialogue** – provides a platform for strengthening cooperation between India and Central Asian countries.

9)India-Central Asia Business Council (ICABC) – launched in February 2020 and comprises the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and chambers of commerce from the 5 central Asian countries.

10)Defence Strategic Partnership Agreements (SPA): India signed the SPA with three of the five CARs—Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan—to stimulate defence cooperation and deepen trade relations.

International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)



Chabahar Port in Iran



India Central Asia Summit 2022

Jan 2022--- Prime Minister of India hosted the maiden India Central Asia Summit in virtual format.

Important for 2 reasons: India and Central Asia completed 30 years of establishing relations of diplomatic relations. Rapidly changing regional dynamics.

Key Points of the Summit

1) Formalisation in the Summit:

- Summit mechanism to be held every 2 years.
- Agreement for regular meetings of Foreign Ministers, Trade Ministers, Culture Ministers and Secretaries of the Security Council.
- India proposed establishing the India-Central Asia Centre in New Delhi, which will operate as the secretariat for the India-Central Asia Summit.
- All the leaders expressed their readiness to create an India-Central Asia Parliamentary Forum to enhance the cooperation between the parliaments of India and Central Asian countries.

2) Talks on Areas of Cooperation:

- Focus on Cultural and Civilization Linkages**

In order to celebrate the linguistic similarities between Indian and CARs, India proposed to commission a ‘Dictionary of Common Words used in India and CARs’. Furthermore, organizing a Buddhist exhibition in CARs will showcase the deep Buddhism linkages between the two regions.

- Pandemic Cooperation**

Indian Prime Minister emphasized on ‘One Earth One Health’ approach to ensuring equitable and affordable access to the critical health supplies that the Central Asian leaders also hailed.

- Capacity Building and Human Resource Development**

India

offers the highest numbers of Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) slots and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships to the youths of CARs.

- **Security Cooperation**

(i) Afghanistan: The establishment of a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Afghanistan will give an institutional framework to the joint efforts of India and CARs to stabilize Afghanistan.

(ii) Terrorism and other forms of threat

India and Central Asia share similar views on terrorism (new practices like cyber warfare) and extremism as the main threat to regional stability.

Tajikistan's proposal to hold an International Conference within the framework of the 'Dushanbe Process on Countering the Financing of terrorism' in 2022 in Dushanbe will be a significant step.

- **Trade and Investment**

During the summit, it was also proposed to create an ‘India-Central Asia Investment Club’. Both sides also identified multiple sectors like agriculture, energy, textile, pharmaceutical, education, IT, business process outsourcing (BPO) to enhance trade and investments.

- **Connectivity**

Connectivity projects like Chabahar ports, International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), Ashgabat Agreement, require priority consideration (seen as could be a force multiplier for trade and economic cooperation).

The integration of the Chabahar port into the INSTC is supported by the CARs.

Significance of the Summit for India

Challenges in Indo Central Asia relations

Way Forward

GS Paper 2

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West Asia is a part of India's extended neighbourhood.



Significance of West Asia for India

1)Energy security – 70% of India's imported energy needs come from West Asia.

2)Gateway to Central Asia

3)Strategic Region

- . The Persian Gulf is a very important zone for India's maritime security, and the Strait of Hormuz is a strategic point.

4)Counteracting Pakistan

3)Trade & Investment – UAE and Saudi Arabia are India's third and fourth-largest trading partners respectively.

4)Economic Growth – India is the largest recipient of foreign remittances from West Asia which plays a significant role in India's growth.

5)Indian Diaspora – Six West Asian countries (UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain) accounted for nearly 70% of all Indians who live abroad. Also there is migration of less skilled labour especially to this area.

6)Culture & Religion – India hosts the 3rd largest Muslim population in the world, which views Saudi Arabia as its important pilgrimage.

7)Regional Connectivity – India has invested in Iran's Chabahar port which is expected to a bridge of trade between India, Iran, and Central Asia along with Afghanistan.

8)Defence – India has a strong defence and security partnership with Israel which is useful for its security and military modernization drive.

9)Regional Stability – Close cooperation is essential with west Asian nations to counter radicalization and rising terrorism in the region.

10)Maritime Diplomacy – West Asia is an integral part of India's Indo-Pacific maritime domain.

- Naval cooperation has already been gaining momentum with Oman giving berthing rights to Indian naval vessels to fight piracy in the Gulf of Aden.

Reason for shift in India West Asia relations

- 1)Gulf countries has multifaceted significance now.**

- 2) Adoption of modern ideas by Gulf countries.**

3) Rise of Khaleeji Capitalism: It is a concept developed by Adam Hanieh. It implies rise of large conglomerates and sovereign wealth funds in the Gulf.

4) De-hyphenated approach regarding India-Pakistan by Gulf countries.

Political equations in West Asia

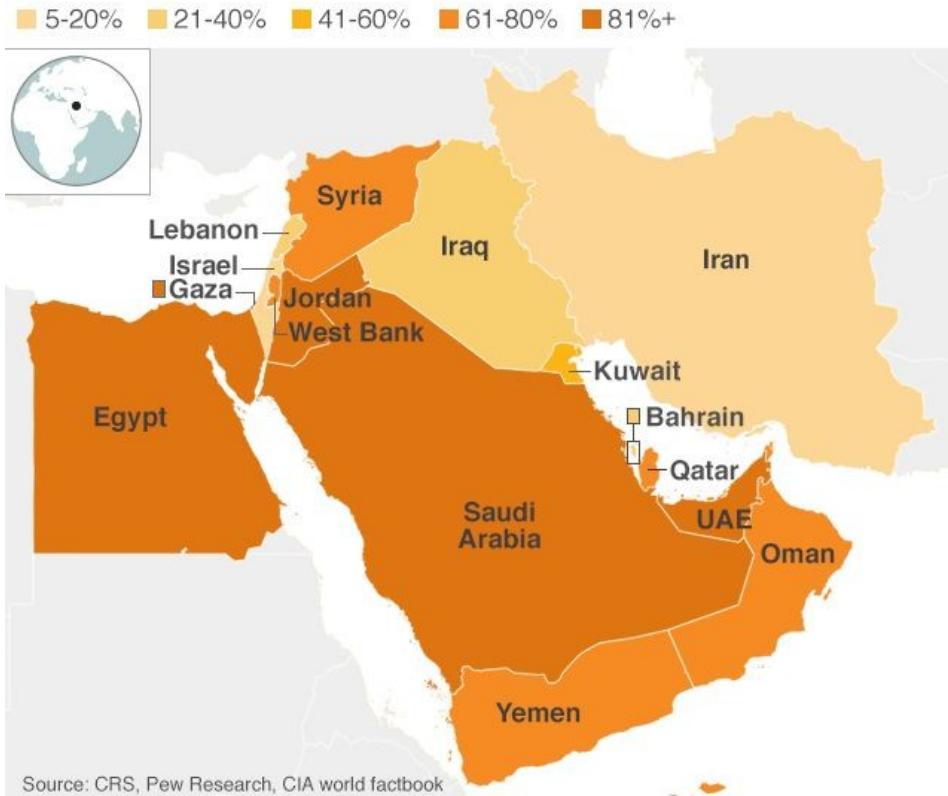
1) Iran Saudi Arabia conflict:

Conflict is because of

- Ongoing struggle for regional dominance in the Middle East.
- Religious differences.

Iran is largely Shia Muslim, while Saudi Arabia sees itself as the leading Sunni Muslim power.)

Estimated distribution of Sunni Muslims in the Middle East



Recent dynamics of Iran Saudi Arabia relations:

1) December 8, 2023--- China's President Xi Jinping had a three-day visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

- **Chinese President Xi Jinping and King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (Saudi Arabia) signed a “comprehensive strategic partnership agreement”.**
- **President Xi attended the 1st China- Arab States Summit and the China-GCC summit in Riyadh.**

Reason why China has emerged as an important partner in West Asia politics:

10th March 2023---Saudi Arabia and Iran, represented by their national security advisers, signed an agreement in Beijing, China, to re-establish diplomatic ties, respect each other's sovereignty and maintain non-interference in the other's domestic affairs.

This will enable two giants of the Gulf region to restore diplomatic relations after seven years.

China's Foreign Affairs head, Wang Yi, who brokered the agreement, described it as a “victory for dialogue, a victory for peace”. The Saudi Foreign Minister said his country “favoured political solutions and dialogue”, while his Iranian counterpart affirmed that his country was pursuing “the preparation of more regional steps”. The accord has been welcomed across West Asia.

Significance of this Saudi Arabia- Iran deal for China:

Countries or pact that can be impacted by the deal:

- 1) YEMEN:** Saudi Arabia entered the conflict in 2015, backing the country's exiled government, while Iran has backed the Houthi rebels who in 2014 seized the capital, Sanaa. The Saudi-Iran deal may provide a boost to efforts to end the conflict.
- 2) LEBANON:** Iran has backed the powerful Lebanese Shiite militia Hezbollah, while Saudi Arabia has backed the country's Sunni politicians. The deal could see the two push for a political reconciliation in Lebanon.
- 3) SYRIA:** Iran has backed Syria's President Bashar Assad in his country's long war, while Saudi Arabia has backed the rebels seeking to topple him. Again ground for new negotiations are opened now.

4) ISRAEL

5) UNITED STATES

6) Impact on Abraham accord or I2U2

7) India

The Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said regarding this deal , “We have seen the reports in this regard. India has good relations with various countries in West Asia. We have deep abiding interests in that region. India has always advocated dialogue and diplomacy as a way to resolve differences.”

Conclusion

2) Israel Palestine Issue



Israel's boundaries today

■ Palestinian civil control ■ Built-up Palestinian area



Historical Background: Israel – Palestine conflict

- The conflict has been ongoing for more than a 100 years between Jews and Arabs over a piece of land between Jordan river and the Mediterranean sea.
- **1917**----Ottoman Empire fell after World War 1 and the UK got control over Palestine. The land was inhabited by a Jewish minority and Arab majority.
- **1917**--The Balfour Declaration was issued with the aim of establishing a home for the Jews in Palestine.
- Jews favoured the idea while the Palestinians rejected it. Almost 6 million Jews lost their lives in the Holocaust which also ignited further demand of a separate Jewish state.

- . Jews claimed Palestine to be their natural home while the Arabs too did not leave the land and claimed it.
- . The International community supported the Jews.
- . **1947**--the UN voted for Palestine to be split into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem becoming an international city.
- . The plan was accepted by Jewish leaders but rejected by the Arab side and never implemented.

The creation of Israel

- 1948—Britain lifted its control over the area and Jews declared the creation of Israel.
- Palestinians objected it—led to an armed conflict.
- The neighboring Arabs also invaded and were thrashed by the Israeli troops. This made thousands of Palestinians flee their homes.
- **The persecuted Jews saw Israel as their promised home while Arabs saw it as an occupation.**



Present scenario

- Tensions are often high between Israel and Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank.
 - **Jerusalem**--Israel claims the whole of Jerusalem as its capital, while the Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state.
 - **Gaza**--Gaza is ruled by a Palestinian militant group called Hamas, which has fought Israel many times.
 - **West Bank**--The West Bank was captured by Jordan after the 1948 Arab -Israeli War. Israel snatched it back during the Six Day War of 1967, and has occupied it ever since. Most of the West Bank is administered by Israel though 42% of it is under autonomous rule by the Fatah run Palestinian authority.



Recent Context:

April 2023---Three people were killed in attacks carried out by Palestine in Tel Aviv and the occupied West Bank. Earlier in the day, Israel had launched airstrikes in Lebanon and the Gaza strip targeting Hamas militant sites, days after the attack on Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque.

Reactions worldwide

- 1) Russia is in favour of resuming multilateral negotiations to find a solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict, which would involve the Quartet on the Middle East and the Arab League.(Quartet comprising Russia, the United States, the European Union and the United Nations)
- 2) EU called for Israel and Palestine to exercise “restraint”.

3) India--India is committed to supporting all efforts to resume direct negotiations between both nations to achieve a two-state solution.

4) The United Nations General Assembly, the UN Security Council, and the International Court of Justice continue to back the partition plan that advocates for a “two state solution.”

Has India's stance to the conflict changed over the years?

3) Saudi Arabia and Israel conflict

The two countries have never established diplomatic relations;

1947-- Saudi Arabia voted against the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine, which aimed to split the territory of British Palestine into an Arab State and a Jewish State.

Saudi Arabia has not recognised Israel since the latter's independence in 1948 due to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

4) Israel Iran proxy war

Israel was once ready to supply nuclear missiles to Iran, but its objective in the recent times had changed to stop Iran's nuclear capability.

Early relations between Iran and Israel?

- 1953 coup d'etat---reinstalled the pro- western leader Mohammad Reza Pahlavi as the Shah of Iran --relations between the two countries improved.
- Israel promised to supply Iran ballistic surface-to-surface missiles.

Shift in policy between Iran and Israel

- **1979 revolution**--Brought down the Shah's monarchy in Iran and turned the country into a theocratic republic.
- Iran severed all diplomatic and commercial ties with Israel, and
- The theocratic government does not recognize the legitimacy of Israel as a state. It officially recognises Palestine as a state. Ali Khamenei the Supreme Leader of Iran, rejects two state solution.
- The revolution moved Iran from an American ally to its top enemy.
- **Octopus doctrine** : Israel has carried out covert operations inside Iran targeting its nuclear and missile programmes. **Former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett termed such operations as the “Octopus doctrine” which means, “Hit the octopus at its head, not just at its tentacles”.**

Iran has also responded with drone attacks, targeting Israeli operatives in northern Iraq.

India's “Look West” Policy

Domestic Challenges within West Asia

Recent issues/events:

1)Abraham Accords:

- Sep 2020--- Israel, UAE and Bahrain signed Abraham Accord brokered by the US.
- Significance of the Accord

Key challenges to the Accord:

What are the opportunities Abraham Accord offers to India?

2) I2U2

Context:

Oct 2021----India, UAE, USA and Israel held their first quadrilateral foreign ministers meeting.

July 2022----India, Israel, UAE, and the US held its first virtual summit.

What is I2U2 Initiative?

Background:

- **I2U2 was initially formed in October, 2021 following the Abraham Accords between Israel and the UAE, to deal with issues concerning maritime security, infrastructure and transport in the region.**

Significance of I2U2

What will be the Significance of I2U2 for India?

Challenges Associated with I2U2

Way Forward for India in I2U2

3) JCPOA Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Why in News?

October 2022—US imposed sanctions against a Mumbai based petrochemical company, Tibalaji Petrochem Pvt Ltd. As it was accused of selling Iranian petroleum products.

March 2022—The diplomats from Iran and world powers reconvened in Vienna (Austria) to seek a deal reviving Iran's (Tehran's) 2015 Nuclear Accord.

The 2015 Iran nuclear deal was signed under President Barack Obama, and dismantled in 2018 by former US President Donald Trump.

What was the 2015 Iran nuclear deal?

- The deal, formally known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).
- Result of long negotiations (2013 and 2015) between Iran and P5+1 (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States + Germany).
- Conditions in the deal:
 - ✓ Iran agreed to cut its stores of centrifuges, enriched uranium and heavy-water (key components for nuclear weapons).
 - ✓ Iran also agreed to allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to access its nuclear sites.
 - ✓ West, in return agreed to lift sanctions related to Iran's nuclear proliferation, however, other sanctions addressing alleged abuses of human rights and Iran's ballistic missile programme remained intact.

- Israel (America's closest ally in the Middle East)---strongly rejected the deal.
- Saudi Arabia (Iran's great regional rival)--- complained that they were not involved in the negotiations.
- 2018--US under Former President Trump abandoned the deal and reinstated banking and oil sanctions in 2018.
- Subsequently Iran ramped up its nuclear programme. (returning to approximately 97% of its pre-2015 nuclear capabilities.)

What happened after the US pulled out of the deal?

- April 2020--US announced its intention to snap back sanctions. However, the other partners objected to the move.
- Even after the withdrawal, several countries continued to import Iranian oil under waivers granted by the Trump administration.
- A year later, the US ended the waivers thus limiting Iran's oil exports.
- Launch of INSTEX (by other actors)---a barter system to facilitate transactions with Iran outside the US banking system. However, INSTEX only covered food and medicine, which were already exempted from US sanctions.
- January 2020---US assassinated the top Iranian general Qasem Soleimani--Iran announced that it would no longer limit its uranium enrichment.
- November 2020, a law was passed in Iran's Parliament that significantly boosted the enrichment of Uranium. Later in 2021, Iran refused the IAEA inspection.

What are the Challenges to the Restoration of JCPOA?

What is the Significance of JCPOA for India?

Way Forward for India and JCPOA

Key Challenges in Indo West Asia relations

Way Forward

GS Paper 2

International Relations

India and its relations with other countries

India and US

Dr. Shruti Joshi

India-U.S. bilateral relations have developed into a “global strategic partnership”. They have shared democratic values and witnesses convergence of interests on bilateral, regional and global issues.

India-U.S. bilateral cooperation is broad-based and multi-sectoral.

Recent Context

1) Visit of External Affairs Minister to the United States of America (September 18-28, 2022)

The foreign minister arrived in the US to attend the United Nations General Assembly.

Shri S. Jaishankar met his US counterpart Antony Blinken as well.

The reason for his visit officially is to 'enable a high-level review of the multifaceted bilateral agenda and strengthen cooperation on regional and global issues to further consolidate the India-US strategic partnership.

2) April 2022----India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

- Cooperation on outer space and cyberspace.
- Cooperation in Indo-Pacific.
- Launch of Defence Artificial Intelligence dialogue (joint cyber training and exercises).
- The US signalled that it would “continue to stand alongside” India to defend its sovereign interest, keeping into mind that China was constructing “dual-use infrastructure” along the border with India.

3) July 2021----US Secretary of State , Antony Blinken visited India and mentioned that actions by India and the US will shape the 21st century. The visit reciprocates the visit by India's EAM to US in May 2021.

4) US and India had engagements in the side-linesG7 and G 20 meet.

These engagements manifests a shift in Indo US relations from being an “Estranged democracies’(Dennis Kux) (during cold war) to strategic partners (in the post cold war era).

US Asia Pivot policy.

Also earlier US adopted hyphenated approach between India and Pakistan rather than individual India- Pakistan policy. However, this approach witnessed a transformation under President Bush who initiated the policy of “dehyphenation”.

What could be the probable reasons for this shift of US policy towards India:

Shift in the Nature of Indo-US Relations

- ❖ **2010---Strategic dialogue**
- ❖ **2015---Strategic and commercial dialogue**
- ❖ **2018---2+2 dialogue**
- ❖ **Feb 2020---Comprehensive global strategic partnersh**

Areas of Cooperation:

1) Defence Cooperation

2005---Indo US defence framework agreement for 10 years was concluded.

2012---In order to increase the pace and quality of defence cooperation, the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) was formulated.

2016---India was designated as a ‘Major Defence Partner’ by the United States.

India now has access to American bases from Djibouti in Africa to Guam in the Pacific. It can also access advanced communication technology used in US defence.

The two sides have also signed the three defence pacts - LEMOA, COMCASA & BECA agreements.

- ✓ The **LEMOA (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement)**, signed in 2016, allows the militaries of both nations to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment (restoration) of supplies.
- ✓ The **COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement)**, signed in 2018 allows 'interoperability' between the two militaries through the transfer of communication security equipment from the US to India. It allows the sale and exchange of encrypted data and equipment.
- ✓ The **BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement)**, signed in 2020, is related to geo-spatial cooperation, which includes sharing classified information on maps and satellites for defence purposes

Defence purchases include C-17 and C-130J transport aircraft, P-8I maritime reconnaissance aircraft, AH-64 Apache attack helicopters and Harpoon missiles.

Both countries are in the advanced stages of negotiation for the sale of 24 MH-60 Seahawk multi-role naval helicopters.

2021 ----India and the United States had signed a Project Agreement (PA) for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV) under the ambit of the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI),

2) Indo US cooperation against China

The 19th century strategic thinker Mahan had prophesised that the future of the world in the 21st century would be decided on the waters of the Indian Ocean.

Thus the IOR and Indo Pacific hold great strategic relevance.

It is for this reason that India's position in South Asia makes it a natural partner of USA.

QUAD

3) Military Cooperation

Bilateral exercises held annually include **Malabar** (between the two Navies and also include Japan), **Cope-India** (Air Force), **Yudh Abhyas** (Army) and **Vajra Prahar** (Special Forces).

4) Counter Terrorism and Internal Security

India-U.S. counter-terrorism cooperation is carried out through the India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism.

Cooperation in counterterrorism involves:

- ✓ intelligence sharing,
- ✓ information exchange,
- ✓ operational cooperation and
- ✓ sharing of counter-terrorism technology and equipment.

Cyber security cooperation between India and the U.S. is carried out under the India-U.S. Cyber Framework signed in 2016.

5) Energy and Climate Change

PACE (Partnership to Advance Clean Energy)----Under this the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Government of India have established the Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center (JCERDC) to promote joint clean energy innovations, with a total joint funding from both Governments of US\$ 50 million.

6) Civil Nuclear Cooperation

The bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement was signed in October 2008.

U S. company – Westinghouse is in discussions with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) for implementation of a project that envisages six AP 1000 reactors at Kovvada (A.P.).

Once implemented, the project would be among the largest of its kind.

7) Science and Technology/Space

- **2000**----The Indo-U.S. Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF) was established by India and the U.S.
- **Areas of cooperation includes:**
 - ✓ cooperation in earth observation,
 - ✓ satellite navigation,
 - ✓ space science and exploration (India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Civil Space Cooperation has been opened)
 - ✓ Mars exploration,
 - ✓ Heliophysics.
- **NISAR:** NASA and ISRO are collaborating on developing an SUV-sized satellite called NISAR.

8) Indian Diaspora & Cultural Cooperation

9) US support to India on permanent membership in UN.

Key Challenges

1) Economic Challenges

- Trade has been an irritant point between Indo US relations.
- US refers India as “tariff king” and accuses it for imposing high import duties.
- US formulated America First Policy under Former President Donald Trump on the economic dimension.

- In 2020, America withdrew special trade privileges granted to India under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) which provides preferential, duty-free access for over \$6 billion worth of products exported from this country to the US. (*The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a USA trade program designed to promote economic growth in the developing world by providing preferential duty-free entry for up to 4,800 products from 129 designated beneficiary countries and territories.*) GSP was instituted on 1st January, 1976, by the Trade Act of 1974.

India in response imposed retaliatory tariffs on several American imports.

In return US approach the WTO against India.

- E-commerce policy and data localisation
- US demand for greater access to American manufacturing, agriculture and dairy products.
- The US government has also complained about India's complex customs clearance procedures, which according to them causes delays, increases costs and add to business uncertainty.

2) Political Challenges

- US cap on H-1B visas
- US support to Pakistan
- India's relation with Iran

- . Continuous reproachment between India and Russia
 - India's dependence on Russian defence equipment.
 - India depend on import of crude oil supplies from Russia.

2017--US Congress had passed the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). According to this Act, US could impose sanctions on any country indulging in procurement of weapons from a foreign so-called “rogue” government. This legislation was introduced to predominantly target Iran and Russia.

India's decision to buy S-400 Triumf long-range missiles from Russia, worth \$5.4 billion, further escalated the friction.

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4) India's reluctance to ban Chinese firm Huawei to participate in the upcoming 5G trials

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Way Forward

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International Relations

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Recent Context

- **March 2023**--Russia's envoy to India Denis Alipov in his tweet described any speculation that India's relations with Russia would be damaged due to Moscow's close ties with Beijing as “wishful thinking”. This was in context to the three day visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Russia.
- **Feb 2023**--30th anniversary of the Indo-Russian Friendship Treaty of 1993.
- **8th -9th February 2023**--India's National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval's visit to Russia.

- **June 2022** ---- India and Russia celebrated the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations. This has come amid Russia Ukraine war.
- **October 2022** ---- External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar visited New Zealand and Australia where he stated that the Indian inventory of Russian-origin weaponry has grown since the West refused to give India arms for decades. New Delhi and Moscow have a long-standing partnership that has served Indian interests well.

EAM further said, “In International politics, we make judgments which are reflective of our future interests and current situation.

What is the Significance of Russia for India?

- 1) Can help in moderating Chinese aggression in the region.
- 2) Helps in deepening India's footprint in the Russian Far East and in the Arctic .
- 3) Boost to Connectivity projects

- 4) Boosting new areas of economic partnership apart from conventional areas.
- 5) Major source of arms/military imports.
- 6) Common concern on countering terrorism.
- 7) Support base of India at multilateral forums.

Different Aspects of Indo-Russia Relations

- During Cold War----India and the Soviet Union maintained strong strategic, military, economic and diplomatic relationship.
- 1971---India and the Soviet Union signed the Treaty of Peace and Friendship.
- 1993--- New Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation.
- 1994---- A bilateral Military-Technical Cooperation agreement signed.

- 2000---- signing of the “Declaration on the India-Russia Strategic Partnership”.
- 2010----The Strategic Partnership was elevated to the level of a “Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.”
- Recently (post COVID world)—Russia’s growing closeness with China.

Recent Developments

What is India's position on the Ukraine issue

- In recent visit to Australia in Oct 2022, Indian foreign minister said, “**this conflict does not serve the interest of anybody- neither the participants nor the international community.**”
- **India prioritises an immediate end to hostilities and a return to diplomacy and engagement.** India has also exposed the hypocrisy of the West when it comes to defending the rules-based order in the rest of the world.
- “**I know that today’s era is not an era of war**”, PM Modi remarked on the side lines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) 2022.

Implications of war on Ukraine for India

- It could embolden China regarding its territorial ambitions. (danger for India's territorial security)
- Sanctions on Russia will impact India's defence cooperation
- New area of global attention other than Indo-Pacific
- Diplomatic tightrope situation for India
- Rising Russia-China axis and its effect.

Discuss the Global Implications of the China-Russia Alliance in present scenario?

Affect of rising China-Russia Alliance on India?

Areas of Cooperation

1) Defence and Security Relations

India has a tradition of multi-sourcing defence equipment. Russia is our biggest defence partner.

- Tri-Services exercise ‘INDRA’
- The joint military programmes between India and Russia include:
 - ✓ Brahmos Cruise Missile Programme
 - ✓ KA-226T twin-engine utility helicopters
 - ✓ Sukhoi Su-30MKI programme
 - ✓ 5th generation fighter jet programme
 - ✓ Ilyushin/HAL Tactical Transport Aircraft

- **The military hardware purchased/leased by India from Russia includes:**
 - ✓ S-400 Triumf
 - ✓ INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier programme
 - ✓ Kamov Ka-226 200
 - ✓ T-90S Bhishma
- **Russia's assistance to India with its submarine programmes:**
 - ✓ Indian Navy's first submarine, 'Fortrot Class' sourced from Russia
 - ✓ Dependence of India on Russia for its nuclear submarine programme
 - ✓ Nine of the fourteen conventional submarines operated by India are Russian.

2) Trade relations

- Enhancing trade and economic cooperation between India and Russia is a key priority for the political leadership of both the countries as is clear by the revised targets of increasing bilateral investment to US \$ 50 billion and bilateral trade to US \$ 30 billion by 2025.
- India is also contemplating an FTA/ CECA with the Eurasian Economic Union.
- **2023----** India and Russia are discussing a free trade agreement (FTA). The announcement came at a time when New Delhi is also engaged in FTA discussions with Britain, the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council.
- India's imports from Russia more than quadrupled to \$46.33 billion over the last fiscal year, mainly through oil.

3)Nuclear Relations:

- Cooperation in the area of peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant is being built in India with Russian cooperation .
- Rooppur Nuclear Power Project in Bangladesh jointly by India and Russia..

4)Space Exploration:

- GLONASS navigation System remote sensing and other societal applications of outer space.
- At 19th Bilateral Summit, 2018---An MoU ISRO and ROSCOSMOS on Joint Activities in the field of Human Spaceflight Programme got signed.

Key Challenges

Way Forward

GS Paper 2

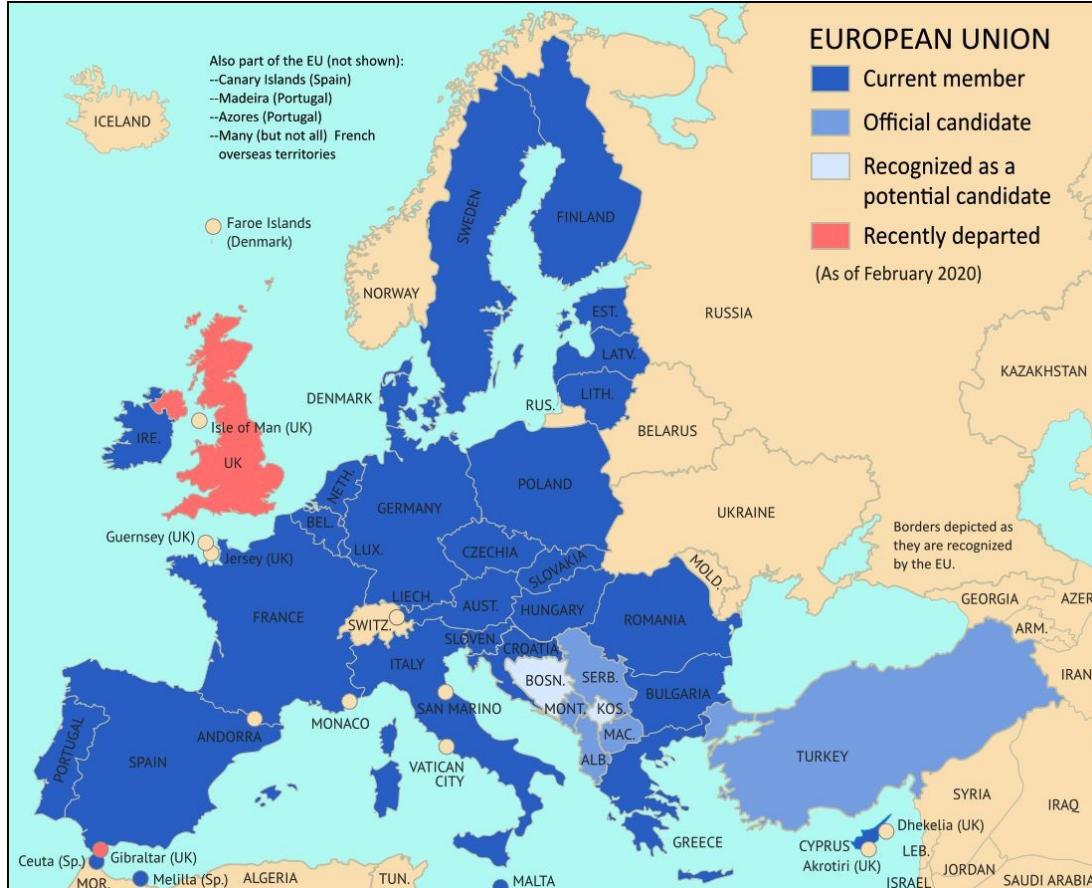
International Relations

India and EU

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About EU

- The European Union is a supranational political and economic union of 27 countries.
- It's genesis lie in the Maastricht treaty of 1993.
- EURO is used as the official currency by 19 of these countries.
- Out of the total, it is 8 EU members (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Sweden) which do not use the euro as currency.
- It has developed an internal single market that is applicable to all member states.



Timeline of EU-India Relations: Key Developments (1962- 2021)



How EU and India are Natural Partners

India's opportunity in EU

Recent Developments

- **March 2023**--India and the European Union (EU) concluded the fourth round of talks for a comprehensive free trade agreement in Brussels. The next round of the talks is planned for 12-16 June 2023.
- **November 28 to December 9, 2022:** The third round of India-EU FTA talks are taking between India and EU in New Delhi. It will focus on
 - ✓ market access for agricultural goods,
 - ✓ digital trade,
 - ✓ environment & sustainability,
 - ✓ Intellectual Property, among other issues
 - ✓ issues like geographical indicators (GI) as well as
 - ✓ investment protection agreement.
- **October 2022**-- the second round of discussions in Brussels.
- **July 2022**---India and the European Union concluded the first round of talks for the proposed free trade agreement (FTA)

Background of India-EU Trade and Investment Agreements.

About:

- ✓ **2007**---Talks started between India and EU for launching a wide-ranging Free Trade Agreement (FTA), officially called Broad-based Trade and Investment agreement (BTIA), or FTA agreement
- ✓ The BTIA included trade in goods, services and investments.
- ✓ **2013**---The talks got interrupted due to differences over market access and movement of professionals.

Currently, the European Union is India's second-largest trading partner after the US, and the second-largest destination for Indian exports.

Challenges within India and EU

Types of Services Supply: The GATS divides services into four categories:

Mode 1: Cross Border -- From the territory of one Member into the territory of any other Member. Distance learning, consultancy, and BPO services are examples of services.

Mode 2: Consumption Abroad -- In the territory of one Member to the service consumer of any other Member. Services are made available to foreign consumers within a country, such as tourism, educational students for students, medical treatment, and so on.

Mode 3: Commercial Presence -- By a service supplier of one Member, through commercial presence, in the territory of any other Member. Services provided by a foreign entity that is commercially present in another country, such as banking, hotels, and so on.

Mode 4: Movements of natural persons-- By a service supplier of one Member, through the presence of natural persons of a Member in the territory of any other Member. Example: A foreign national who works as a consultant or employee in another country, delivering services such as a doctor, nurse, IT engineer, and so on.

Way Forward

GS Paper 2

International Relations

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The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, commonly known as the United Kingdom (UK) or Britain comprises England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Island.



Trajectory of Indo UK relations

1950: India became part of commonwealth of nations after becoming a republic.

2004: The India-UK partnership turned to a strategic one.

2010: The relations were upgraded to ‘Enhanced Partnership for the Future.

2021: Conclusion of India UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

The agreement also established a 2030 Roadmap for India- UK relations.

The “Roadmap 2030” for India-UK future relations was launched during India-UK Virtual Summit for-

- revitalized and dynamic connections between people;
- re-energised trade, investment and technological collaboration that improves the lives and livelihoods of the citizens;
- enhanced defence and security cooperation that brings a more secure Indian Ocean Region and Indo-Pacific and
- India-UK leadership in climate, clean energy and health that acts as a global force for good.

Recent Developments:

1) October 2022--- Rishi Sunak became the 57th Prime Minister of the UK — the first person of Indian origin and the youngest British prime minister in 200 years.

Sunak's win came days after Liz Truss's resignation, after her tax cut plans and policy U-turns which created controversy in the markets.

PM Sunak said he wants to change the UK India relationship to make it a more “two-way exchange” that opens up easy access to UK students and companies in India.

“We are all very aware of the opportunity for the UK to sell things and do things in India, but actually we need to look at that relationship differently because there is an enormous amount that we here in the UK can learn from India,” he said.

“I want to make sure that it’s easy for our students to also travel to India and learn, that it’s also easy for our companies and Indian companies to work together, because it’s not just a one-way relationship, it’s a two-way relationship, and that’s the type of change I want to bring to that relationship,” he added.

At a diplomatic level, one example of the “living bridge” between the two countries could be PM Sunak.

Around 1.8 million Indians, or 2-3 % of Indian diaspora, contribute six percent to United Kingdom’s (UK) economy, which is recognized as a huge contribution.

2)April 2022----

The then Prime Minister of the UK Borris Johnson visited India on April 21-22, 2022.

In the bilateral talks, the Prime Ministers of India and the UK appreciated the progress made on the Roadmap 2030 launched at the Virtual Summit in May 2021.

What are the key outcomes of the bilateral meeting?

- The PMs appreciated the progress in ongoing FTA negotiations and implementation of the Enhanced Trade Partnership.
- Both leaders agreed to transform defence and security cooperation as a key element of India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and discussed opportunities for defence collaboration including on co-development and co-production for meeting the needs of Armed Forces of both the countries.

- Cyber Cooperation: in the areas of
 - ✓ cyber governance,
 - ✓ cyber deterrence and
 - ✓ safeguarding critical national infrastructure.
- They also agreed to closely cooperate on countering the persistent threat of terrorism and radical extremism.
- Both Prime Ministers also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest including cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, Afghanistan, UNSC, G20 and Commonwealth. India welcomed the UK joining Indo-Pacific Ocean's Initiative under Maritime Security pillar and agreed to enhance engagements in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The two leaders also discussed the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict. Prime Minister Modi expressed deep concern at the mounting humanitarian crisis and reiterated his call for immediate cessation of violence and return to direct dialogue and diplomacy as the only way forward.

- MOUs: The visit resulted in signing of several MOUs:
 - (a) MoU on Implementation of Global Innovation Partnership;
 - (b) MoU on Cooperation on Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership;
- PM Modi congratulated Prime Minister Johnson for successful organization of COP26 last year. They reiterated commitment to ambitious climate action to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and in implementing the Glasgow Climate Pact. They agreed to enhance cooperation on rapid deployment of clean energy including off-shore wind energy and green hydrogen and work closely for early operationalisation of the Global Green Grids-One Sun One World One Grid Initiative (OSOWOG) under ISA and the IRIS platform under CDRI which were jointly launched by India and UK at COP26.

- **Strategic Technology Dialogue:** Ministerial-level dialogue on new and emerging communication technologies such as 5G, AI etc.
- **Collaboration on Integrated Electric Propulsion:** Co-development of technology between the two Navies.

(2) Proposed India UK FTA

Both India and the UK realises great potential in expanding bilateral economic exchanges. They have set an ambitious target to double this by 2030 from the current level of US\$31.4 billion (2022). In 2015, this was US\$19.4 billion.

This is driven by this proposed India UK FTA.

The proposed FTA:

- Will help double bilateral trade by 2030.
- Will give major fillip to Indian exports in labor intensive sectors like Leather, Textile, Jewellery and processed Agri-products
- Aims to provide certainty, predictability and transparency, creating a more liberal, facilitative and competitive services regime.
- Aims to enhance sectoral cooperation by addressing market access issues and removing trade restrictions
- Will give a big boost to employment generation
- Expect India to strengthen data piracy and enforce contracts.

December 2022--The sixth round of negotiations between India and the UK to finalise a free trade agreement (FTA) concluded on 16th December 2022.

Feb 2023--The seventh round of India-UK FTA discussions took place in London.

March 2023--Negotiations continue on a “forward-facing trade deal with India”, with the eighth round of India-UK FTA discussions in New Delhi [on hybrid mode]. India and the UK recorded trade “worth £34 billion to year end September 2022”.

Discussions have closed on 13 chapters of the trade agreement.

There are 26 chapters in the proposed FTA deal, which include goods, services, investments, and intellectual property rights.

Key Issues in FTA talks

- Digital trade : regulatory barriers to be cleared to facilitate trade through digital services and digitally enabled services.
- Investor Protection (for British businesses): They seek early arbitration in case of disputes.

3)Strategic cooperation between India and UK

- The armed forces of two countries are also deeply engaged in joint war games. Naval exercise Konkan is the flagship annual event between the Indian and UK naval forces.
- UK's Integrated review of security, defence, development and foreign policy, says "Britain recognises the vital security role that India plays in the region".
- The Roadmap 2030 commits the two nations to collaborating on tackling cyber space, crime and terrorist threats with the aim of developing a "free, open and secure Indo-pacific region" and counter the threats posed by a rising China.
- Roadmap 2030 has set the stage PM Sunak, to show his political genius to implement this ambitious strategic agenda.

Key Challenges

Way Forward

GS Paper 2

International Relations

India and Extended Neighbourhood

SCO

Dr. Shruti Joshi

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent international intergovernmental organization.

Members countries of SCO :There are 9 Member States:

- China
- India
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Russia
- Pakistan
- Tajikistan
- Uzbekistan
- Iran

There are **3 Observer States** interested in acceding to full membership:

- Afghanistan
- Belarus
- Mongolia

There are **6 Dialogue Partners**:

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Cambodia
- Nepal
- Sri Lanka
- Turkey

Main Goals of SCO

- 1) Strengthening mutual confidence and good-neighbourly relations among the member countries;
- 2) Promoting effective cooperation in politics, trade and economy, science and technology culture as well as education, energy, transportation, tourism, environmental protection and other fields;
- 3) Making joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region,
- 4) Moving towards the establishment of a new, democratic, just and rational political and economic international order.

Proceeding from the Spirit of Shanghai the SCO pursues its internal policy based on the principles of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equal rights, consultations, respect for the diversity of cultures and aspiration towards common development, its external policy is conducted in accordance with the principles of non-alignment, non-targeting anyone and openness.

Strengths/ Potential of Shanghai Corporation Organization

- . The SCO covers 40% of the global population, nearly 20% of the global GDP and 22% of the world's land mass.
- . The SCO has a strategically important role in Asia due to its geographical significance – this enables it to control Central Asia and limit the American influence in the region.
- . SCO is seen as a counterweight to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

SECURE Strategy

S- Security of citizens (**SCO RATS:** Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is a permanent body based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. RATS possess information on terrorist organisations and terrorists)

E- Economic development for all

C- Connecting the region

U- Uniting our people

R- Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity

E- Environmental protection

September 2022---India took over the chairmanship of the 9-member mega grouping and will be holding key ministerial meetings and the summit in 2023.

March 29, 2023---Saudi Arabia's cabinet approved a decision to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as Riyadh builds a long-term partnership with China despite U.S. security concerns.

March 2023---India, as the current chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), hosted a meeting of National Security Advisors (NSA) and top officials in New Delhi

17th march 2023---India mooted an action plan to mark 2023 as the year of tourism development in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) region at the tourism minister's conference in Varanasi.

April 2023---SCO defence ministers' meeting is scheduled to take place in New Delhi.

May 4-5, 2023---SCO's foreign ministers' meeting which will be held in Goa (India)

Importance/ Relevance of SCO for India

SCO Summit 2022: 15th September 2022---Highlights

- The SCO summit 2022 was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- Samarkand declaration was signed by the member states.
- India takes over Presidency of the SCO for 2023.
- Chinese and Indian leaders voiced their concerns to the Russian President on Ukraine issue
- At the SCO summit, the Prime Minister stated The Prime Minister also stated that India is moving closer to being a manufacturing centre.

- Iran was accepted as a permanent member of the SCO.
- It was emphasised that countries should “commit to peaceful settlement of differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultation.”

Challenges for Shanghai Corporation Organization

Way Forward

GS Paper 2

International Relations

G 20

Dr. Shruti Joshi

Recent Context

1) **November 2022**--The 17th Group of 20 (G20) Heads of State and Government Summit will take place in November 2022 in Bali, Indonesia.

Under the Indonesian Presidency, the G20 in 2022 will focus on the theme, ‘Recover Together, Recover Stronger’.

2) India is hosting the **G-20 (Group of 20)** leaders' summit in New Delhi in 2023.

3) India celebrated a key milestone in its G20 presidency on Monday with the hosting of the 100th meeting of the grouping.

In a tweet, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, "100 meetings in 41 cities; 1200 delegates from across 111 nationalities. **As the world becomes 'India ready' the New India is also 'world ready.'**"

The Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) in Varanasi is the 100th meeting of the grouping under India's presidency.

The second Health Working Group in Goa, the 2nd Digital Economy Working Group in Hyderabad and the Space Economy Leaders' Precursor Meeting in Shillong are also being held in April 2023.

What is G20?

- G20 is an international forum that brings together the world's 20 leading industrialised and emerging economies.
 - It consists of 19 countries and the EU.
 - It is a forum for economic, financial and political cooperation.
 - It seeks to address the major global challenges and generate public policies that resolve them.
- The G20 was formed in 1999 in the backdrop of the financial crisis of the late 1990s that

What is the significance of G20?

What are the Outcomes of the recent 17th G 20 Summit?

- **Condemnation of Russian Aggression**
- **Concerns regarding Global Economy (currency fluctuations), global growth and suggested a regulated rise in interest rate.**
- **Health:**
 - ✓ Took forward goal of universal health care and improving global health governance.
 - ✓ Appreciated the World Bank's "Pandemic Fund" (for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response).

- **Issue of food security got discussed in wake of Russian Ukraine crisis.** In this regard appreciated the Black Sea grains project.
- **Digital Transformation:**
- ✓ importance of digital transformation was realised especially in achieving sustainable development goals.
- ✓ International collaboration was welcomed in this regard.
- ✓ Key areas of focus:
 - enabling digital skills
 - Increasing digital literacy especially vulnerable sections like women etc.
- **It called for global joint efforts to address global challenges such as climate change.** Terming climate change a “defining challenge” of the age, it was stated that a “climate solidarity pact” is conducive to achieving the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement.

Opportunities offered to India as it holds the Presidency for 2023

The importance of India holding the 2023 Summit

- **Opportunity to showcase its philosophies of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (one earth, one family, one future), and LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)** through the theme and the logo of the event. The logo encompasses a budding lotus and its seven petals, clasping the globe's affirmation of the fundamental values of all life, such as human, animal, plant, and microorganisms and their interrelation on the planet Earth and the broader universe. The lotus emblem in the G20 logo illustrates hope in these troubling times. Seven petals on the lotus represent seven continents of the globe and seven music notes. G20 will carry the world together in harmony. The lotus flower depicts India's mythological heritage, faith, and intelligence in this logo.

- **Opportunity to India to become “voice of the voiceless” (Global South).**
- **Offers India economic opportunities in different sectors such as**
 - ✓ tourism,
 - ✓ hospitality, IT
 - ✓ civil aviation
 - ✓ energy,
 - ✓ agriculture,
 - ✓ trade,
 - ✓ digital economy,
 - ✓ health
 - ✓ environment etc.

- **Exploring the strength of its essence of “Unity in Diversity”(pluralism)**
- **Exhibiting its Management tactics during pandemic**
- **Asserting its foreign policy of multi alignment and strategic autonomy**

- **Offering innovative ideas regarding Employment and environment:**
- ✓ India has its own initiatives like “LiFE Movement” & “The One Sun One World One Grid” to offer to the world.
- **Showcasing its own success models to offer the world.**
- ✓ Seamless digital payment model built on the public digital infrastructure (UPI)
- ✓ Unique digital identity (Adhaar model)
- ✓ Financial inclusion model(Basic Saving Bank Deposit (BSBD) accounts, Relaxed and simplified KYC norms, Simplified Branch Authorization Policy, Compulsory Requirement of Opening Branches in Un-banked Villages etc)
- ✓ Efforts of transition to green energy. (PM KUSUM, Green energy corridor, National SMART Grid mission etc)

What are the drawbacks & challenges of G20?

Way Forward

GS Paper 2

International Relations

NATO

Dr. Shruti Joshi

Recent Context

- The war in Ukraine has brought the spotlight on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- **June 2022**----NATO Summit in Madrid (Spain).
- **April 5, 2023**---- NATO foreign ministers.
- ✓ NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said that he hoped to see Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky at a summit of the alliance's leaders this summer. "A strong independent Ukraine is vital for the stability of the Euro-Atlantic area, and we look forward to meeting President Zelensky at our Vilnius summit in July," Stoltenberg said after a meeting of NATO foreign ministers.

- **April 18, 2023—**
- ✓ New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said that he would attend the upcoming NATO summit in July, while Australia's leader said he was still considering whether to travel.
- ✓ New Zealand would seek to advance a trade agreement with the European Union while at the NATO summit.
- ✓ Australia and New Zealand both attended last year's summit in Madrid as non-member participants.
- **April 2023--** Finland has joined the now 31 member alliance in a historic policy shift while neighbour Sweden has applied to do so.
- **11-12 July 2023 ---NATO Summit in Vilnius, Lithuania.**

What is NATO

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- There are currently 31 member states.
- Finland is the latest country to join NATO.
- Sweden have shown interest to join NATO.
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.

What are the Objectives of NATO?

To safeguard the freedom and security of all its members through both political and military means.

- **Political objectives:**

- ✓ Promotion of democratic values and
- ✓ enabling members to consult and cooperate on defence and security-related issues.
- ✓ Trust building and in the long run, preventing conflict.

- **Military Objectives:** Aims for peaceful resolution of disputes. Only if diplomatic efforts fails, it take recourse to military power for crisis-management operations.

These are carried out under the collective defence clause of NATO's founding treaty.

What is collective defence?

Members of NATO are committed to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party. Collective defence lies at the very heart of NATO, “a unique and enduring principle that binds its members together, committing them to protect each other and setting a spirit of solidarity within the Alliance”.

This is laid out in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, the founding treaty of NATO.

Article 5 reads: “The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area.”

NATO has only once invoked Article 5, on September 12, 2001 following the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Centre in the US.

Ques/-Why was NATO not dissolved after the disintegration of the USSR?

OR

Despite being a cold war construct, why NATO still continue holding importance?

Ques/-What is NATO's stand in the current Russia-Ukraine conflict?



Note: This graphic shows forces focused on the defense of member states in NATO's east along with US Army troops in the same countries; it excludes military capabilities of individual member states. Troop numbers are approximate, latest available as of February 9, 2022. The US Army has small numbers of liaisons and advisors in Latvia, Estonia, Slovakia, and Hungary.

Ques/-Should NATO be dissolved?

India and NATO

- India held its first political dialogue with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Brussels on December 12, 2019, with the aim to assess cooperation on regional and global issues of mutual interest. The talk was primarily political in Character.

What is the significance of India's talks with NATO?

NATO Summit 2022 MADRID : Important Highlights

- Russia Ukraine stand off has sparked a “fundamental shift” in NATO’s deterrence and defence.
- New Strategic concept : declared Russia its number one threat.
- Rising NATO influence:
- ✓ For the first time, the leaders of Japan, Australia, South Korea and New Zealand attended the summit as guests.
- ✓ Two traditionally nonaligned countries, Sweden and Finland were reconsidering upon their entry.

- It was declared that keeping into mind the new “unstable” world, member states will have to boost their military spending.
- Talks were made to increase the strength of the alliance.
- The summit was said to create a blueprint for the alliance “in a more dangerous and unpredictable world.”
- Decisions were made regarding strengthening defences against Russia and supporting Ukraine.
- Talks were also made as within how the war will end.

Challenging issues in this Summit

GS Paper 2

International Relations

G7

Dr. Shruti Joshi

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.



- The G-7 was, for a while, known as the Group of Eight (G-8), until 2014 when former member Russia was removed after annexing the region of Crimea illegally from 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.

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.

Leaders from the member countries, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as representatives from the European Union, will gather for a summit in Hiroshima.

India along with Australia, Cook Islands, Brazil, Vietnam and Indonesia are also invited for the summit this year.

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.

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.)

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.

India and G7

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

Probable impact of G7 2023 summit decisions on India

Challenges within G7

Way Forward

GS Paper 2

International Relations

Indian Diaspora

Dr. Shruti Joshi

Jan 8-10 2023--The 17th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD), or the day for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) that is commemorated annually on January 9, was held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

This year's theme is “Diaspora: Reliable partners for India’s progress in Amrit Kaal”. Over 3,500 diaspora members from nearly 70 different countries have registered for the PBD Convention, according to its press release. The Special Guest of Honour is Suriname President Chandrikapersad Santokhi and the Chief Guest is Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana.

Speaking at the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention in Indore, PM Modi said, “**India not only has the capability of becoming a knowledge center but also a skilled capital. Our youth has skills, values & honesty & determination toward work. Our skilled capital can become the world's growth engine.**”

He further added that the present India is looked at with hope and curiosity. “**Today India is being looked at with hope and curiosity. India's voice is being heard on the global stage... India is also the host for this year's G20. We do not want to make it only a diplomatic event, but an event of people's participation.**”

The Indian diaspora around the world now stands at 31.2 million, of which PIOs were 17 million and NRIs were 13 million, spread across 146 countries in the world.

According to a World Bank Report, India received approximately 87 billion dollars in remittances in 2021 with USA being the biggest source, accounting for over 20% of these funds.

To mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated on 9th January every year.

- The rise of Indian diaspora was the result of **Indian indenture system** or a system of indentured servitude, under which more than 1.6 million Indians were transported as labour in European colonies. This system of British Indian indentureship continued till the 1920s. As a result there was development of a large Indian diaspora in the Caribbean, South Africa, East Africa, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Myanmar to Fiji.
- In India, diaspora is a wide category to include Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI), out of which PIO and OCI card holders were merged under one category as OCI in 2015.

NRI

- An Indian citizen who is ordinarily residing outside India and holds an Indian Passport.
- A person is considered NRI if She is not in India for 182 days or more during the financial year Or;
- If he/she is in India for less than 365 days during the 4 years preceding that year and less than 60 days in that year.

PIO

PIO is an identification status given to whom or whose any of the ancestors was a permanent Indian resident/citizen and who is currently holding valid citizenship and passport of another country.

What is OCI?

- **Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)** is a form of permanent residency available to PIOs and their spouses which allows them to live and work in India indefinitely.
- OCI status is not citizenship.
- It does not grant the right to vote in Indian elections or hold public office.
- The OCI Card is only valid with a valid international passport.
- The OCI scheme was introduced by the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2005, in response to demands for dual citizenship by the Indian diaspora.
- OCI status is not available to anyone who has ever been a Pakistani or Bangladeshi citizen, or who is a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of such a person.

PIO and OCI card holders were merged under OCI category in 2015.

Significance of Indian Diaspora

1) Economic Significance

- According to the World Bank Migration and Development Brief, 2022, “In 2022, for the first time a single country, India, is on track to receive more than USD 100 billion in yearly remittances.”

Remittances to India were enhanced by wage hikes and a strong labour market in the United States and other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, it adds.

- As per the report, India, China, Mexico, the Philippines and Egypt are (in descending order) among the top five remittance recipient countries.

Significance of Indian Diaspora

1) Economic Significance

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2)Political Significance

3)Strategic Significance

4) Spread of Indian culture, values

5) Role in R&D/ S&T

6) Helps in decreasing disguised unemployment.

Challenges Faced by Indian Diaspora

Way Forward

GS Paper 2

International Relations

India and UN

Dr. Shruti Joshi

Context:

- **December 1, 2022**--- India assumed the monthly rotating presidency of the UN Security Council (UNSC) on December 1, the second time in its two-year tenure as an elected member of the Council in 2021-22.
- **December 31, 2022**--- India's tenure (2021-22) as non permanent member of UN Security Council ended.
- India has declared its candidature for non permanent membership of UNSC for the 2028-29 term.

UN Reforms

During the December Presidency of India at the UNSC, Ms. Kamboj (the Permanent Representative of India at the United Nations)said that the reformation of the United Nations is the “**most complex process**” of the UN system.

Ms. Kamboj said that there is a lot of “pessimism and cynicism” about the possibility of reform of the UN Security Council as the item of reform has remained on the agenda of the UNSC for nearly three decades without any substantive progress.

“Today, you have almost two hundred member states. Their voices are not being heard anymore. Let’s say, the voice of the voiceless, the smaller states, the countries from Africa - who hears them? Everything is being scripted for them in many ways,” Ms Kamboj said , warning that “may be the UN will be overtaken by other institutions for example that are more democratic such as the G-20”

Need to reform UNSC

India's Quest for permanent membership in UNSC

GS Paper 2

International Relations

India and Africa

Dr. Shruti Joshi

Former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, once said, “India and South Africa are two countries held so closely by bonds of sentiment, common values, and shared experience, by the affinity of cultures and traditions and by geography”.

Recent Context

1) April 2023----India’s External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar went for 2 nation trip to Uganda and Mozambique in an attempt to bolster bilateral economic and defence ties.

Earlier in 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Uganda , during which India’s overarching policy towards Africa, popularly known as the **Kampala principles** were also enunciated.

These principles contain elements that are indicative of both the continuity and change in India’s approach towards the continent.

Mozambique, lies on the extensive Indian Ocean coastline and is of strategic importance to India. Reasons---

- ✓ After Mauritius, Mozambique is India's second-largest destination for Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) into Africa.
- ✓ It is a vital partner for India to shore up its energy security by importing Liquified Natural Gas and diversifying its import sources.
- ✓ India has also exported many of its “Made in India” self-defence indigenous equipment like fast interceptor boats and armoured vehicles to boost Mozambique’s defence preparedness and military capabilities.

Why this visit matters

- ✓ **The visit comes at a time when Africa's other international development partners, such as the United States (US), China, Türkiye, Japan, and the European Union (EU), have conducted their own editions of Africa + 1 summit in recent years.**

- ✓ Even Russia is going to hold the second Russia-Africa summit in Saint Petersburg in July 2023.
- ✓ Africa's immense natural resources, demographic dividends, and growing integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) have made the continent the 'go-to' destination for global powers.
- ✓ India's equivalent to these summits, known as the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS), was held way back in 2015.

Outcomes at Uganda

- ✓ The inauguration of India's National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in collaboration with Ugandan People's Defence Force (UPDF) in Jinja province, Uganda.
- ✓ Dr Jaishankar also inaugurated the construction of a solar water pump project, which, upon completion, is expected to provide access to clean water to over half a million Ugandans spread across 20 districts.

Outcomes at Mozambique

- ✓ Expanding train networks, waterways connectivity, and electric mobility were discussed with the Mozambican transport minister.
 - ✓ The Buzi Bridge was inaugurated by Dr Jaishankar. This bridge is expected to improve connectivity between Mozambique's capital, Maputo, and the port city of Beira, and spur socio-economic development and free movement of goods and services.
- 2) **25th November 2022**---The Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar while addressing the valedictory session of UNESCO India Africa Hackathon underscored the civilizational connect and shared historical bond between India and Africa, and said that "**we are neighbours across the Indian ocean**"

3)October 2022---The Indian Defence Minister addressed the second India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD). This was held on the sidelines of **DefExpo 2022** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

Theme: “Adopting strategies for synergising and strengthening defence and security cooperation”.

Gandhinagar Declaration:

- ✓ Gandhinagar Declaration was adopted to enhance cooperation in the fields of training & military exercises.
- ✓ increasing training slots and deputation of training teams,
- ✓ empowerment and capability building of the defence forces of Africa,
- ✓ participation in exercises, and providing humanitarian assistance during natural disasters.

- **Areas of cooperation:**
 - Capacity building,
 - Training cyber security,
 - Maritime security and
 - Counter-terrorism.
- **Africa India Field Training Exercise:**
 - India has held African partners set up Defence training institutions and extended help for counter-insurgency training.
- **Expansion of UNSC**

India said it does not believe in a "hierarchical world order" where a few countries are considered superior to others.

What is the significance of India-Africa Relationship? Or Significance of Africa to India

- Resource rich region
- Energy Security
- Strategic Interests



- Investment Opportunities

- Exports

- Potential of huge Economic Growth

(The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) provides a wide scope to create the largest free trade area in the world)

- Soft Power



Commercial ports in the Horn of Africa region



Indo African ties: Kampala Principles

2018---Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a set of 10 guiding principles that will dictate India's engagement with Africa.

In a speech to the Ugandan parliament, PM of India outlined a vision for not just a bilateral relationship with Africa but also a partnership at the global level.

10 guiding points under Kampala Principles:

- 1)Africa will be at the top of our priorities. We will continue to intensify and deepen our engagement with Africa. As we have shown, it will be sustained and regular.
- 2)Our development partnership will be guided by your priorities. We will build as much local capacity and create as much local opportunities as possible. It will be on terms that will be comfortable for you, that will liberate your potential and not constrain your future. We will build as much local capacity and create as much local opportunities as possible.

- (3) We will keep our markets open and make it easier and more attractive to trade with India. We will support our industry to invest in Africa.
- (4) We will harness India's experience with the digital revolution to support Africa's development; improve delivery of public services; extend education and health; spread digital literacy; expand financial inclusion; and mainstream the marginalised.
- (5) Africa has 60% of the world's arable land, but produces just 10% of the global output. We will work with you to improve Africa's agriculture.
- (6) Our partnership will address the challenges of climate change.
- (7) We will strengthen our cooperation and mutual capabilities in combating terrorism and extremism; keeping our cyberspace safe and secure; and, supporting the UN in advancing and keeping peace.

8) We will work with African nations to keep the oceans open and free for the benefit of all nations. The world needs cooperation and not competition in the eastern shores of Africa and the eastern Indian Ocean.

9) As global engagement in Africa increases, we must all work together to ensure that Africa does not once again turn into a theatre of rival ambitions, but becomes a nursery for the aspirations of Africa's youth.

10) Just as India and Africa fought colonialism together, we will work together for a just, representative and democratic global order that has a voice and a role for one-third of humanity that lives in Africa and India.

Areas of cooperation

- **Trade**
- **Defence and Security**
 - ✓ April 2023--- Recently, India has extended a line of credit touching nearly \$14 billion to 42 nations out of 55 nations in the African Union.
 - ✓ India is projecting itself as a value of money-defense supplier. Countries like Egypt, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Mauritius, Seychelles, have already started buying Indian defense equipment.
 - ✓ India and the African nations last also conducted a joint army exercise — the Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-2023).

- **Education**

April 2023 (Education diplomacy)

- ✓ Talks are currently underway between India and Tanzania for the establishment of the first foreign campus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in the East African country.
- ✓ The overseas campus of India's National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) has been inaugurated in Jinja, Uganda by India's foreign minister, Dr S Jaishankar.

- **Food Security**

- **Cooperation with Africa for Reform in Global institutions(UN, WTO,IMF)**

- **Maritime Cooperation**
- **Cooperation to tackle terrorism**
- **Common Agendas** (Like climate change---[Climate diplomacy](#))

It focuses on two India-led multi-stakeholder global partnership organisations—i.e., the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

Development Initiatives by India in Africa

- **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)**
- **Pan-African e-network**
- Cooperation with **African Development Bank (AfDB)**, and \$10 billion line of credit to help financing the projects in African countries.
- **Supporting Indian Trade and Investment for Africa (SITA)**
- **Techno-Economic Approach for Africa–India Movement (TEAM-9) –**
- **Training institutes**
- **India Africa Forum Summit** –Official platform for the African Indian relations. It is held once in every three years, beginning from 2008.

- **Medical Field** – Indian-manufactured drugs has also been essential in the fight against the HIV and AIDS pandemic in Africa.
- COVID 19Response – India has used its economic capacity, medical equipment, and medicine, to assist African countries.
- **Asia-Africa Growth Corridor** – an economic cooperation agreement between India and Japan that envisages closer engagement between Asia and Africa for “sustainable and innovative development”
- **Peace keeping operation** – India is the largest contributor to -mandated peacekeeping and other operations in Africa. More than 30,000 personnel are involved in 17 of 22 total missions in the region since 1960.

What are the challenges associated with India-Africa relationship?

What steps can be taken to enhance India-Africa Relationship?

Thanks

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