



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Classroom Study Material

(May 2019 to February 2020)



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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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1. INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD

1.1. INDIA-CHINA

1.1.1. INDIA-CHINA STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DIALOGUE

Why in News?

India hosted the **6th India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue** in New Delhi.

About India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue

- It is a **bilateral dialogue platform between the planning bodies** of India and China- the Planning Commission of India (now NITI Aayog) and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China.
- The idea of having such a dialogue was first floated by Premier Wen Jiabao on his visit to India in 2010.

Other such India-China Economic and Commercial platforms

- **Joint Economic Group** led by the Commerce Ministers of both sides.
- **Development Research Center Dialogue and the Financial Dialogue** led by Secretary Department of Economic Affairs of India and Vice Minister, Ministry of Finance of China.

India China Economic Relations

- In **1984**, India and China entered into a **Trade Agreement**, which provided them with the status of **Most Favored Nation**.
- China is India's **second largest trading partner (US is the largest)**; whereas India is within the top ten of China's trading partner.
- India has a **trade deficit of \$51.11 billion USD with China**.
- **Indian imports from china:** Electrical machinery and power equipment, Fertilizers.
- **Exports:** Resource-based items such as iron ore and cotton.

1.1.2. SECOND INDIA-CHINA INFORMAL SUMMIT

Why in news?

The **second informal summit** between India and China took place in Mamallapuram (Tamil Nadu).

Key Takeaways of Mamallapuram Summit

- Establish a **High-Level Economic and Trade Dialogue mechanism**.
- The year 2020 will be designated as **Year of India-China Cultural and People to People Exchanges**.

- **'Sister-state relationship'** between **Tamil Nadu and Fujian Province**.
- **Chennai connect** to manage differences in such a way that they would **"not allow differences on any issue to become disputes"**.
- **First informal summit** took place in **April 2018 in Wuhan**.

Sister city relationship

- Sister cities or twin towns are a form of **legal or social agreement** between towns, cities, counties, states etc. in geographically and politically distinct areas to promote cultural and commercial ties.
- **Some sister city arrangements**
 - Aurangabad and Dunhuang (China)
 - Hyderabad and Qingdao (China)
 - Chennai and Chongqing (China)
 - Ahmedabad and Kobe (Japan)
 - Delhi and Chicago (USA)

1.1.3. BORDER DISPUTE IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Why in news?

China objected to Home Minister's visit to Arunachal Pradesh to celebrate its 34th Statehood Day where he has launched multiple projects related to industry and roads.



Border Dispute in Arunachal Pradesh

- India shares a 1,140 km long boundary with China in the eastern sector.
- It runs from the eastern limit of Bhutan to the trijunction of Tibet, India and Myanmar (in figure). This boundary line is called **McMahon Line**.
- However, China considers the McMahon Line illegal and unacceptable and claims Arunachal Pradesh to be a part of **south Tibet or Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR)**.
- It claims that Tibetan representatives who had signed the 1914 Convention held in Shimla which delineated the McMahon line on the map did not had rights to do so.

1.2. INDIA-BANGLADESH

Why in news?

Bangladeshi Prime Minister recently visited India, during which seven major deals were signed.

Major outcomes of the visit

- Memorandums of understanding MoU
 - for providing a **Coastal Surveillance System**
 - on withdrawal of water from **Feni River by India** for drinking water supply scheme for Sabroom town, Tripura;
 - between the University of Hyderabad and University of Dhaka;
 - on Co-operation in Youth Affair.
- Standard Operating Procedure on use of **Chattogram and Mongla Ports** for movement of goods to and from India;
- Renewal of Cultural Exchange Programme and,
- A **Joint declaration** which called for celebration of **Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary (2019)**, **birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (2020)** and **50 years of Bangladesh War of Liberation (2021)**.

1.3. INDIA NEPAL

1.3.1. INDIA NEPAL CROSS BORDER COOPERATION

Why in News?

Nepal's Armed Police Force (APF) has assured India, cooperation in checking doubtful "third country" operatives on its soil.

More about the News

- The decision was inked during the **fourth India-Nepal coordination meeting** held between Indian border guarding force **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** and its Nepalese counterpart **Armed Police Force (APF)** at Pokhara, Nepal.
- This is for the **first time** that the joint record of discussions had a **special mention of 'third country' operatives**.
- With this, not only terrorist elements from Pakistan and other countries, but **smugglers and fake Indian currency notes (FICN) mafia** can also be better checked along **1,751-km long open India-Nepal border**.

Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

- SSB comes under the aegis of the **Ministry of Home Affairs** and is a part of the Central Armed Police Forces (**CAPF**), along with **six other**

central security forces in India (Assam Rifles, Border Security Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Indo Tibetan Border Police and National Security Guard).

- It was established in 1963 in the aftermath of the **Chinese aggression in 1962**.
- It is currently deployed at 2450 kms long **Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders** across the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- It has also been declared as the **Lead Intelligence Agency for these border areas** and it coordinates its activities with the Intelligence Bureau (IB), Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and the Multi Agency Centre (MAC) of various agencies under the Union Home Ministry.
- **Responsibilities include:**
 - To **promote a sense of security** among the people living in the border areas.
 - To **prevent trans-border crimes** and unauthorized entry into or exit from Indian territory.
 - **Carry out civic action programme** in the area of responsibility.

1.3.2. MOTIHARI-AMLEKHGUNJ OIL PIPELINE

Why in news?

India and Nepal have successfully concluded the **'testing transfer' of the Motihari-Amlekhgunj oil pipeline**

About the pipeline

- The 69-km long petroleum pipeline from **Motihari in Bihar to Amlekhgunj in Nepal** has **been constructed by India**.
- This is the **first transnational petroleum pipeline from India, first South Asian oil pipeline corridor** and **first oil pipeline in Nepal**.
- It will **ensure smooth, cost-effective and environment-friendly supply of petroleum products to Nepal**.
- The Motihari-Amlekhgunj oil pipeline project was **first proposed in 1996**. The two governments had **inked an agreement to execute the project in August 2015**.

1.3.3. INDIA NEPAL INAUGURATE NEW INTEGRATED CHECK POST

Why in news?

India Nepal recently inaugurated 2nd integrated check post at **Jogbani (Bihar)– Biratnagar (Nepal)**. The first was at **Raxaul, Bihar**.

About Integrated Check Post (ICP)

- ICPs are envisaged to provide all the facilities required for smooth cross-border movement

of individuals, vehicles and goods under an integrated complex.

- It has integrated 3 main border related functions - **customs, immigration and border security**.
- **Operational ICPs:**
 - Attari in Punjab (Pakistan border),
 - Petrapole in West Bengal (Bangladesh border),
 - Akhaura in Tripura (Bangladesh),
 - Raxaul in Bihar (Nepal),
 - Jogbani in Bihar (Nepal),
 - Moreh in Manipur (Myanmar).
- Further, “in principle” approval has been granted for the setting up Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at 10 other locations.

1.3.4. NEPAL CHINA INK ROAD CONNECTIVITY DEAL

Why in news?

China and Nepal signed agreements for all-weather road **connectivity between Kathmandu and the Tibet Autonomous Region**.

More on the news

- This is part of **Trans-Himalayan Multidimensional Connectivity Network (THMCN)** umbrella first announced in 2018.
- THMCN is an economic corridor between Nepal and China and **part of China's Belt and Road Initiative**.

1.4. INDIA-SRI LANKA

Why in news?

Recently, Sri Lanka's PM Mahinda Rajapaksa visited India.

Major outcomes of the visit

- Expressed Sri Lanka's willingness to see **cooperation and progress in SAARC**.
- He asked **India to defer debt repayments for 3 years so that other countries can follow suit**. Sri Lanka owes approximately \$60 billion total foreign and domestic debt.
- **Requested further financing** from India for its nationwide housing project.
- India and Sri Lanka agreed to hold a meeting with the Maldives leadership to re-operationalize **India-Sri Lanka-Maldives NSA level dialogue** and trilateral maritime security cooperation amid growing Chinese interests.

Recent developments in India Sri Lanka relations

- India signed MoUs to develop **Trincomalee port** and oil tank farms, and LNG terminals in Kerawalapitiya near Colombo.

- **Joint India-Japan agreement** to develop the East Container Terminal at Colombo harbour, and offer to operate the **Mattala Airport** in Sri Lanka.
- Building infrastructure in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, including upgrading the **Jaffna-Colombo rail track**, providing electricity transmission lines for power imports from India, and rebuilding the **Kankesanthurai port**.
- India is Sri Lanka's largest trading partner globally, while **Sri Lanka is India's second largest trading partner in the SAARC**.
- **Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement was signed in March 2000**.

1.5. INDIA-MALDIVES

Why in news?

India and Maldives recently signed five MoUs for establishing the **Addu Tourism zone** in five islands of Addu atoll.

More on news

- A **6th MoU was also signed to set up a bottled water plant in Hoarafushi** (an inhabited island of the northern-most atoll, Haa Alif Atoll in Maldives).
- All six projects are grant **projects fall under India's High Impact Community Development Scheme (HICDP)**.
 - HICDP constitute an **important dimension of development partnership** between India and Maldives and projects under it are **driven by needs of communities** on the islands.
- Addu atoll is **also known as Seenu Atoll**, and is the **southernmost atoll of the Maldives**.
 - An atoll is a ring-shaped coral reef that surrounds a body of water called a lagoon.
- There are **small lakes, wetlands, and marshy taro fields** (a tropical plant grown primarily for its edible corms i.e. a root vegetable) that are unique to Addu Atoll.
- This atoll has some of the **earliest known settlements recorded** in the country.

India's development partnership assistance programmes

- **India-UN Development Partnership Fund (UNDPF)**
 - It is a dedicated facility within the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation established in 2017.
 - It supports Southern-owned and led, demand-driven, and transformational sustainable development projects across the developing world, with a **focus on least developed countries and small island developing states**.

- **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)**
 - It was instituted in 1964 as a bilateral programme of assistance of the Government of India.
 - DPA-II Division of **Development Partnership Administration (DPA)** in the **Ministry of External Affairs** is the nodal division for handling all capacity building programmes.
 - The **program has five components**: Training in India of ITEC nominees; project and feasibility studies and consultancy services for a country's particular needs or projects; deputation of Indian experts in whatever needed capacity abroad; and aid for disaster relief.

1.6. INDIA-MYANMAR

Why in news?

President of Myanmar visited India recently.

Important Takeaways of the Visit

- **Opening of coordinated bus service** between Imphal and Mandalay.
- India's assistance in the construction of **Integrated Check Point at Tamu, Myanmar**, bordering Manipur.
- **India will offer medical radiation equipment Bhabhatron II** for treatment of cancer patients, and strengthen cooperation in the health sector.
- **Agreed to have government-to-government cooperation** in petroleum, including in refinery, stockpiling, blending and retail.
- Extend the **Quick Impact Project (QIP) schemes to Myanmar**.
 - QIPs mostly cover upgradation of physical infrastructure such as roads, local community centres,. These short gestation projects are aimed to directly benefit locals, with immediate and visible results.
- India will help Myanmar with the project of **e-ID cards**, which is modelled after the Aadhaar project.
- Both sides agreed to enable the launch of **India's RuPay Card in Myanmar**.
 - The RuPay card services has also been launched in – UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Maldives and Bhutan.
- The two sides decided to provide more projects to **Rakhine State Development Programme**.
- Commitment to continue negotiations on various pending treaties like **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty and Extradition Treaty**.

- Early completion of the **Paletwa-Zorinpui road** – the final leg of the Kaladan project.
- Also, recently, under '**India-Myanmar Friendship Project**' India has handed over 250 pre-fabricated houses in the Rakhine State for the rehabilitation of refugees.
- Earlier, Myanmar bought India's first locally-produced anti-submarine torpedo, called **TAL Shyena, in 2017**. In 2019 Myanmar acquired a diesel-electric Kilo-class submarine, **INS Sindhuvir**.

Related information: Free Movement Regime

- In order to facilitate free movement of the tribal people along the border of India and Myanmar, the mechanism of the free movement regime was introduced.
- Free Movement Regime (FMR) allows the tribes living along the border to travel 16 km across the boundary without visa restrictions.
- India, Myanmar have signed **Land Border Crossing Agreement** on May 11, 2018, which will facilitate regulation and harmonization of already existing free movement rights for people.
- It facilitates movement of people on the basis of **valid passports and visas** which will enhance economic and social interaction between the two countries.

Related news: China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC)

- CMEC is **proposed economic corridor** of China under Belt and Road Initiative providing connectivity between Myanmar and China.
- It involves a central road and rail transport infrastructure leading from Southern China's Yunnan Province through Muse and Mandalay to Kyaukphyu in Rakhine State in Myanmar.
- It provides China another node to access the Indian Ocean.

1.7. SAARC

Why in news?

Sri Lanka's former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has pitched for **revival of SAARC** for better regional integration and development of the region.

About South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

- SAARC was established with the signing of the **SAARC Charter in Dhaka in 1985**. Its **secretariat** is in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
- **Objectives**: To promote the welfare of the people of South Asia and to improve their quality of life, and to accelerate economic growth, territorial integrity, mutual trust and benefit etc.

- **Members:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- The **Summit level Meetings of the Heads of State or Government of Member States** is the highest decision-making authority under SAARC.
- Decisions at all levels are to be taken on the basis of **unanimity**. **Bilateral and contentious issues are excluded** from the deliberations of the Association.
- **South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)**, the FTA of SAARC, came into force in 2006.
- The **last SAARC summit** was held in 2014 and **subsequent summits could not be held after 2016** Summit scheduled in Pakistan got cancelled in the backdrop of terrorist attacks in **Pathankot and Uri**.
- **SAARC Council of Foreign Ministers** was held in 2019, in New York on the side-lines of the United Nations General Assembly session.
- As per world Bank report, intra-regional trade in South Asia is less than 5% of total trade, dwarfed by East Asia's 35% and Europe's 60%.

- Originally, the project mentioned **30 identified priority transport connectivity projects** with an **estimated cost of over US \$8 billion** that will rehabilitate and upgrade remaining sections of trade and transport corridors in the BBIN countries.
- India, Nepal and Bangladesh have ratified the Agreement while **Bhutan failed to get its Parliament's nod** to ratify the same. It has some reservations about its environmental impact owing to increased traffic of heavy-duty vehicles.
- Under **South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) programme**, **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has been providing technical, advisory, and financial support to this initiative.
- On November 1, 2015, a cargo vehicle made the **first successful trial run from Kolkata to Agartala** via Bangladesh that reduced the distance by over a thousand kilometers.
- In recent meet, the delegations discussed a **draft enabling MOU (memorandum of understanding)** among Bangladesh, India and Nepal for implementing the BBIN MVA, without obligation to Bhutan. Bhutan participated in observer capacity.



(Proposed BBIN Road Connectivity)

1.7.1. BBIN MOTOR VEHICLES AGREEMENT

Why in news?

A meeting of **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal** (BBIN) on the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) was held recently.

About BBIN MVA

- The BBIN project was conceived when SAARC at its 18th Summit in Kathmandu failed to sign a SAARC Motor Vehicles Agreement -chiefly because of Pakistan.
- The **sub-regional** Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA) seeks **regulation of passenger, personnel and cargo vehicular traffic** between the four BBIN countries.

Other regional connectivity agreements

- **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project**
 - It will connect the seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Myanmar by sea.
 - It will then link Sittwe seaport to Lashio in Myanmar via Kaladan river boat route and then from Lashio on to Mizoram in India by road transport.
- **India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway**
 - The highway will link Moreh in Manipur state (India), via Mandalay city (Myanmar) and to Mae Sot district (Thailand). (3200 km).

- **Indo-Bangladesh Inland Water Transit And Trade Protocol**
 - Under this protocol, India will be investing in creating infrastructure (Port, Road and Rail) in **Ashugonj port** (On river Meghna, Bangladesh) and **Akhaura Checkpost** (Agartala), to facilitate the smooth movement of goods to the NE states.

1.8. BIMSTEC

Why in news?

BIMSTEC leaders were invited for Prime Minister’s swearing in ceremony.

About BIMSTEC

- **Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** is a regional group of seven members: **Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan, and Nepal**, established in 1997 through **Bangkok Declaration**.
- **Founding members:** Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- Its **Secretariat** has been established at **Dhaka**.
- India invited BIMSTEC leaders to the BRICS outreach summit in Goa in 2016.



Related news: BIMSTEC-DMEx 2020

- The **2nd BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise (BIMSTEC-DMEx) 2020** is a 3-day exercise that discussed standardization of protocol, formulation of policy and guidelines for **protection of heritage sites during disasters** and their conservation post-disaster.
- It was attended by five (out of seven) member nations Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Nepal at Puri, Odisha. Thailand and Bhutan did not participate.
- National Disaster Response Force hosted BIMSTEC- DMEx 2020.



SN	Location	About
1	Chattogram port, Bangladesh	India Bangladesh agreed on use of Port for movement of goods to and from India
2	Mongla port, Bangladesh	India Bangladesh agreed on use of Port for movement of goods to and from India
3	Feni river, Bangladesh	Withdrawal of water from Feni River by India for drinking water supply
4	Petrapole, West Bengal	Integrated Check Post (ICP) across India-Bangladesh border
5	Jogbani, Bihar	ICP across India-Nepal border
6	Moreh, Manipur	ICP across India-Myanmar border
7	Wagah, Punjab	India Pakistan border
8	Motihari-Amlekhgunj (Bihar to Nepal) oil pipeline	First South Asian oil pipeline corridor
9	Trincomalee port, Sri Lanka	India signed MoUs to develop Trincomalee port
10	Colombo port, Sri Lanka	India-Japan to develop oil terminal in Colombo’s Eastern port
11	Rakhine state, Myanmar	Rohingyas dominated area
12	Akhaura, Tripura	ICP across India-Bangladesh border
13	Addu atoll, Maldives	India-Maldives signed five MoUs for establishing the Addu Tourism zone
14	Bhashan Char Island, Bangladesh.	Camp for Rohingya refugees

2. INDIA AND SOUTHEAST/EAST ASIA

2.1. ASEAN

2.1.1. INDIA-ASEAN: REVIEW OF FREE TRADE PACT

Why in news?

India and Association of South-East Asian nations (ASEAN) agreed to review the **Free Trade Agreement (signed in 2009)**.

About ASEAN

- ASEAN, is a **geo-political and economic** organization with 10 member countries, formed in August 1967 by **Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand**.
- The membership expanded to include **Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Vietnam**.

Background of India- ASEAN Trade Relations

- In 1992, India became ASEAN's **sectoral dialogue partner**, a **Full Dialogue Partner in 1995** and a member of the **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in 1996**.
- In **2003**, a Framework Agreement – the **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** was signed to provide an institutional framework to enable economic cooperation.
- In 2009, **India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AIFTA)** was signed in **Bangkok**.
- **ASEAN-India Free Trade Area** entered into force by the ASEAN-India Agreements on **Trade in Service and Investments** on 1 July 2015.
- 2017 marked **25 years of dialogue partnership between India and ASEAN**, and five years of the strategic partnership.
- **ASEAN is India's fourth largest trading partner**.
- **Major exports** from India to the region: Ships, boats, floating structures, mineral fuels, mineral oils and meat.
- **Major imports:** telecom equipment, electrical machinery, mineral fuels, mineral oils and animal or vegetable fats and oils.

Related News

- Recently, Prime Minister attended the **16th ASEAN-India Summit** held at Bangkok, Thailand.
- The Summit was chaired by the Prime Minister of Thailand and was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and the Indian Prime Minister.
- **The discussions were held on**
 - **political-security cooperation,**

- **economic cooperation** (amid RCEP),
- **ASEAN-India connectivity-** cooperation between Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) and the Mekong-Ganga,
- **Socio-cultural cooperation.**

2.1.2. ASEAN OUTLOOK ON THE INDO-PACIFIC

Why in news?

ASEAN recently has adopted the '**ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific**'.

About ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)

- An initiative that reinforces the **ASEAN-centered regional architecture** which is not aimed at creating new mechanisms or replacing existing ones; rather, **intended to enhance ASEAN's Community building process** and to strengthen and give new momentum for existing ASEAN-led mechanisms.
- It involves the further strengthening and optimization of ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) etc.
- It enumerates the **four functional areas** through which ASEAN believes collaboration can be tangibly advanced:
 - **Maritime cooperation**
 - **Connectivity**
 - **Sustainable development**
 - **Economic and Other Possible Areas of Cooperation.**

Indo-Pacific Region

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

India's Initiatives in the Indo Pacific region

- The Ministry of External Affairs established a **new Division for the Indo-Pacific** in April 2019.
- In November 2019, India launched an open global initiative **Indo Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI)** at the East Asia Summit held in Bangkok, Thailand.
 - It draws on existing regional cooperation architecture and mechanisms to focus on seven central pillars conceived around Maritime Security; Maritime Ecology; Maritime Resources; Capacity Building and Resource Sharing; Disaster Risk Reduction etc.
- In December, 2019, India hosted **Delhi Dialogue-XI with ASEAN Member States** on the theme "Advancing partnership in the Indo-Pacific" along with the **6th Indian Ocean Dialogue with IORA Member States** on the theme "Indo-Pacific: Re-imagining the Indian Ocean through an Expanded Geography".

2.1.3. REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Why in news?

India has **decided not to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).**

About RCEP

- RCEP was **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** involving 16 countries (Now, 15 countries), including the 10 ASEAN countries and China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and India.
- RCEP seeks to provide a **framework aimed at lowering trade barriers and securing improved market access for goods and services for businesses in the region.**



Why India opted out?

- **Trade deficit:** India's merchandise trade deficit with the RCEP grouping hit \$105 billion in FY19 (60% of its total deficit).

- **India's experience with FTA:** India's exports to **FTA countries has not outperformed** overall export growth or exports to rest of the world.
- **Threat to domestic market:** A large number of Indian industries including iron and steel, dairy, marine products, electronic products, chemicals and pharmaceuticals and textiles have expressed concerns that proposed tariff elimination under RCEP would render them uncompetitive.
- **Lack of compliance with rules:** The surge in goods imports into India is accentuated by instances of non-adherence to the **Rules of Origin provisions** and lack of full cooperation in investigating and addressing such breaches.
- **Competition from China:** Size and scale of Chinese manufacturing industry backed with extensive financial and non-financial support provide a clear edge to Chinese manufacturing producers.
- **Strict IPR policy** which India argued to be taken out of the agreement.

Rules of origin

- They are the criteria needed to determine the national source of a product.
- Their importance is derived from the fact that duties and restrictions in several cases depend upon the source of imports.

2.1.4. EAST ASIA SUMMIT CONFERENCE ON MARITIME SECURITY COOPERATION

Why in news?

Recently, India hosted East Asia Summit (EAS) maritime conference in **Chennai.**

About the Conference

- This is the **fourth** in a series of EAS Maritime Security Conferences organised by the Indian government. Earlier three were, (New Delhi in 2015), (Goa in 2016) and (Bhubaneswar in 2018).
- It was organized by **Ministry of External Affairs**, in partnership with the governments of **Australia and Indonesia.**
- It is to provide a platform for **free and open dialogue among all the EAS partners on various issues** of maritime security cooperation, and to come up with useful suggestions on **tackling challenges in the maritime domain in a cooperative manner.**

East Asia Summit (EAS)

- It is **leader-led forum** at which all key partners meet to discuss the full range of **political, security and economic challenges** facing the

Indo-Pacific, and has an important role to play in advancing closer **regional cooperation**.

- **The EAS has 18 members** - the ten ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) along with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the United States and Russia.
- This represents **54 per cent of the world's population and accounts for around 58 per cent of global GDP**.
- The **inaugural EAS** was held in Kuala Lumpur on 14 December 2005. India has been a part of this process since its inception in 2005.
- The **14th EAS** was held in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2019.

2.2. INDIA-SOUTH KOREA

Why in news?

India and South Korea concluded two agreements on defence educational exchanges and extension of logistical support to each other's Navies, during recent India defence minister's visit to Seoul.

About the agreements

- India South Korea signed **Naval logistics sharing pact** to extend logistical support to each other's navies.
- Another agreement on **defence educational exchanges** was signed, which will take forward the special strategic partnership between two countries.
- A **'forward looking roadmap'** was formulated to take India South Korea defence relations to next level.
 - It listed a number of **proposed areas of co-operation** in sectors of Land Systems, Aero Systems, Naval Systems, R&D co-operation and collaboration in Testing, Certification and Quality Assurance.
- This will enhance Korean companies' participation in India e.g. **the K9 Vajra mobile artillery guns** are being made by L&T in collaboration with Hanwha Land Systems.

Related information: New Southern Policy (NSP)

- NSP is part of South Korean government's broader strategy of promoting a 'Northeast Asia Plus Community for Responsibility-sharing' (NEAPC).
- The New Southern Policy intends to build stronger economic linkages with countries to Korea's south in Southeast Asia and India.
- **New Northern Policy**, meanwhile, focuses on countries to Korea's north including Russia, Mongolia and Central Asian countries.

2.3. INDIA-JAPAN

Why in news?

India and Japan recently held the meeting of India-Japan Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue (2+2), in New Delhi.

More about news

- The 2+2 ministerial dialogue is seen as an upgrade of the meeting between foreign and defence secretaries of the two countries, the first round of which took place in 2010.
- The ministerial level meeting was held after a decision to institute a **Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue** was taken during the **13th India-Japan Annual Summit held in Japan in 2018**.
- 2+2 meeting aimed to give further momentum **to their special strategic partnership, particularly in the maritime domain**.
- The two sides **exchanged views on the situation in the Indo-Pacific region** and resolved to work for achieving shared objective of peace, prosperity and progress in the region.

India's 2+2 Mechanism

- Japan is the second country with which India has 2+2 ministerial dialogue (USA being the other one)
- India and Australia also have the 2+2 at the official level.
- With this, India has 2+2 mechanism with all the Quad countries at some level.

2.4. INDIAN OCEAN DIALOGUE 2019

Why in news?

6th Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) was held in Delhi recently.

About Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD)

- The IOD is a flagship initiative of the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**.
- It is a **Track 1.5 discussion**, encouraging an open and free flowing dialogue by **academia and officials on strategic issues** of the Indian Ocean Region.
- **Track 1.5 diplomacy** involves both **officials and non-officials** (business leaders, business organizations and all possible non diplomats).
 - It is seen as a **midway** between **Track I (governmental diplomacy)** and **Track II (backchannel diplomacy** through non-state actors).



Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

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

Related news: Delhi Dialogue

- It is premier annual event (held since 2009) to discuss politico-security, economic and socio-cultural engagement **between India and ASEAN**.
- **It was held along with IOD.**
- **Theme:** Advancing Partnership in Indo-Pacific.

2.5. MEKONG GANGA COOPERATION

Why in news?

The 10th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting was recently held in Bangkok, Thailand.

About Mekong- Ganga Cooperation

- It is an **initiative by six countries** – India and five ASEAN countries, namely, **Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam** (Mekong passes through these five countries along with China).
- It seeks for cooperation in tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communications.
- It was **launched in 2000** at Vientiane, Laos.
- Both the **Ganga and the Mekong are civilizational rivers**, and the MGC initiative aims to facilitate closer contacts among the people inhabiting these two major river basins.

2.6. SOUTH CHINA SEA

Why in news?

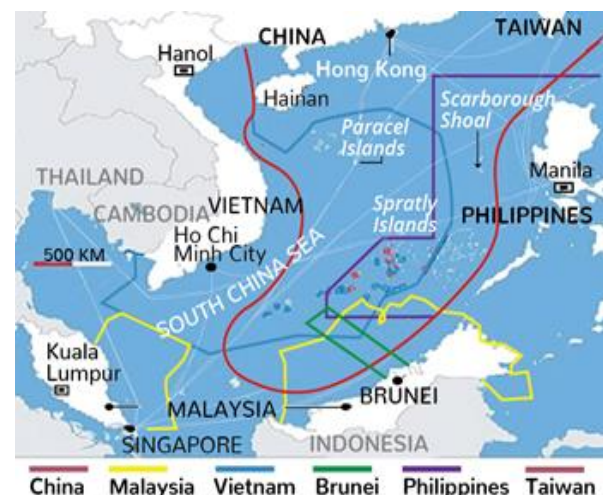
China has reportedly deployed an airship near South China Sea (SCS) to monitor and control military activity in the area by other countries, especially the United States.

Importance of South China Sea

- **Strategic Location:** One third of global shipping passes through the South China Sea.
 - It is estimated that around 80 percent of Beijing’s imports of oil reach the country through the South China Sea after passing the Strait of Malacca.
- **Fisheries:** It accounts for 10% of the world’s fisheries, making it a key source of food for hundreds of millions of people.

Issues with South China Sea

- **Territorial conflict:** Philippines, Vietnam, China, Brunei, Taiwan and Malaysia hold different, sometimes **overlapping, territorial claims over the sea, based on various accounts of history and geography.**
 - China claims more than 80 per cent. China’s **“nine-dash line”** is a geographical marker used to assert its claim. It stretches as far as 2,000km from the Chinese mainland, reaching waters close to Indonesia and Malaysia.
- **Violation of International rules:** In 2016, **China rejected UNCLOS Arbitral Tribunal ruling** that said China’s claims are in breach of UNCLOS.
- India has favored inclusivity and plurality. It has highlighted that institutions and orders need to be “consultative and non-prescriptive, respectful of the region’s preference for consensus-based approaches”.



United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

- It is an international treaty which was adopted and signed in 1982.
- It lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources.
- The Convention has created three new institutions:
 - International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea,
 - International Seabed Authority,
 - Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.
- It has more than 160 member parties, including **China and India**.
 - US has still not ratified the law.

Maritime Zone and their Entitlements

Maritime zone	Extension seaward from baselines	Entitlements
Internal Water (ie historical bays)	Located landward side of baseline	Full sovereign authority
Territorial Water	12 nm	Set laws, regulate use, exploit resources, police zone. Foreign vessels permitted 'innocent passage'
Contiguous Zone	24 nm (overlaps territorial sea)	Enforce laws on pollution, smuggling, taxation, customs and immigration.
Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)	200 nm	Rights over all natural resources in the water column and seabed (ie fishing). Other states have rights of navigation, overflight, and the submarine pipes and cables
Continental Shelf	Up to 350 nm	Exploit resources in the seabed and subsoil (ie oil)



SN	Location	About
1	Osaka, Japan	14 th G-20 summit, 2019
2	Fujian province, China	Tamilnadu's sister state
3	Wuhan, China	India China first informal summit
4	Hongkong, China	Protests against Extradition bill
5	Taiwan	In news due to Hongkong protests
6	Macau, China	Special Administrative Region of China; In news due to Hongkong protests
7	Shanghai, China	New Development Bank (BRICS bank) headquarters
8	Beijing, China	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation headquarters



फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन प्रारंभिक एवं मुख्य परीक्षा 2021

इनोवेटिव क्लासरूम प्रोग्राम

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

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

DELHI 18 Feb | 9 AM
16 June | 1:30 PM

LUCKNOW 9 July
9 AM

JAIPUR 17 June

लाइव/ऑनलाइन कक्षाएं भी उपलब्ध

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3. INDIA AND CENTRAL ASIA/RUSSIA

3.1. INDIA-RUSSIA

3.1.1. INDIA-RUSSIA STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DIALOGUE

Why in news?

The **second India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue (IRSED)** was recently held in New Delhi.

About the Dialogue

- The **India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue (IRSED)** was established by a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding between **NITI Aayog** and the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation during the 19th edition of the **Annual India-Russia Bilateral Summit** in New Delhi.
- The First India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue was held in **St. Petersburg** in 2018.
- The Second meeting of the IRSED focussed on **six core areas of cooperation**:
 - Development of Transport Infrastructure and Technologies
 - Development of Agriculture and Agro-Processing sector
 - Small and Medium Business support
 - Digital Transformation and Frontier Technologies
 - Cooperation in Trade, Banking, Finance, and Industry
 - Tourism & Connectivity

3.1.2. RUSSIAN FAR EAST

Why in News?

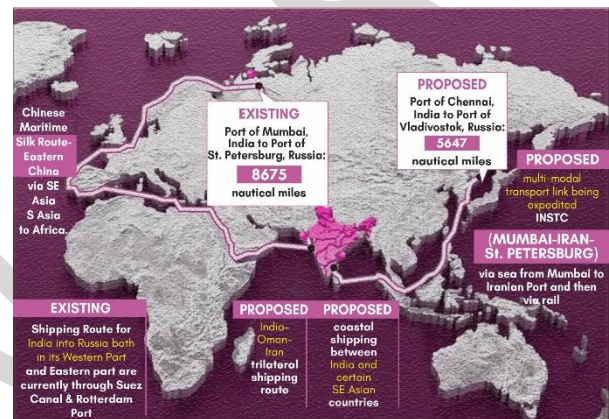
The **20th India-Russia annual summit** and the fifth meeting of the **Eastern Economic Forum (EEF)** were recently held in **Vladivostok**, Russia.

More about news

- The focus of the visit was on the **development of the Russian Far East** for which India has extended a \$1 billion line of credit.
- The **Eastern Economic Forum (EEF)**, established in 2015 aims to support the economic development of Russia’s Far East, and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Among the participants in this fifth Summit were **India, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, and South Korea**.
- **Earlier**, a proposal for **maritime route between Chennai and Vladivostok** has been

made. It will bypass Europe, which would enable to transfer cargo between Chennai and Vladivostok in 24 days in comparison to over 40 days currently taken to transport goods from India to Far East Russia via Europe.

- Also, recently, India and Russia have finalized roadmap for a government-to-government agreement for **long-term import of crude oil** by India from Russia's Far East region.
- The pact was part of **five-year road map for cooperation in the hydrocarbons sector (2019-24)**.



3.1.3. POWER OF SIBERIA PROJECT

Why in News?

- China and Russia inaugurated the first cross-border pipeline between their countries, called the **“Power of Siberia”**.
- The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations between Russia and China.



About the Power of Siberia project

- The central aim of this gas pipeline is to **pump natural gas** to China from Russia’s far-east regions like **Yakutia**.

- Construction for this pipeline started in 2014. The pipeline is over 4,000 km in length and has an annual capacity of over 61 billion cubic metres.

3.2. INDIA-CENTRAL ASIA

Why in news?

At **launch of India Central Asia Business Council (ICABC)**, External Affairs Minister talked about setting up “**air corridors**” between India and Central Asian nations to boost trade and economic engagement.

More on news

- Availability of air corridors can **boost trade in perishable goods, agricultural and food products**
- Presently, most of trade with Central Asia goes via **Bandar Abbas in Iran, northern Europe or China**.
- **ICABC** is launched by Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in partnership with the industry bodies of Central Asian countries.

India's efforts to connect with the region

- **Connect Central Asia Policy** which was launched in 2012 included strong political relations, strategic and security cooperation, long term partnership in energy and natural resources etc.
- **1st India-Central Asia Dialogue** (Ministerial level summit) was held in 2019, in **Samarkand**, Uzbekistan and was co-chaired by the Minister of External Affairs of India.
- **Ashgabat Agreement**: India has acceded to the Ashgabat Agreement, an **international transport and transit corridor** facilitating transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf. **Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan,**

Turkmenistan, Iran, Pakistan, India and Oman are members of the agreement.

- **Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI)**: It is the proposed natural gas pipeline that runs from Galkynysh field (Turkmenistan) – Herat – Kandahar – Multan - Fazilika (PakIndia Border).

3.2.1. EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION

Why in news?

Russia stated that it is looking forward to India concluding **Free Trade Agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) by 2020**.

About Eurasian Economic Union

- It is an **international organization for regional economic integration** established by the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union.
- It came into force on 1 January 2015.
- It provides for **free movement of goods, services, capital and labor**, pursues coordinated, harmonized and single policy in the sectors determined by the Treaty and international agreements within the Union.
- **Eurasian Economic Commission** is the executive body of the Union.
- **Members:** Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. Former three are founding members.



4. INDIA AND WEST ASIA

4.1. INDIA SAUDI ARABIA

Why in news?

Prime Minister of India recently visited Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and attended Future Investment Initiative (FII) held in Riyadh.

Major outcomes of the visit

- Establishment of a **Strategic Partnership Council (SPC)**. India to become the fourth country to sign such an agreement with Saudi Arabia. The SPC will have two parallel tracks:
 - **Political, security, culture and society**, headed by Foreign Ministers of both the countries;
 - **Economy and investment**, headed by India's Commerce Minister and Saudi's Energy Minister.
- Both countries **signed 12 MoUs** on issues such as preventing narcotics trafficking, renewable energy, security collaboration etc.
- Saudi Arabia identified India as one of the Kingdom's 8 Strategic Partner Countries under **'Vision 2030'**. It is a plan to reduce Saudi Arabia's dependence on oil and diversify its economy.

Future Investment Initiative (FII)

- It is an initiative by Saudi Arabia **to diversify the kingdom's economy** and reduce its dependence on petroleum products.
- FII brings together **policymakers, investors and global experts**, to discuss the role of investment in driving global prosperity and development.
- FII is widely being described as **"Davos in the desert"**. (Davos here is a reference to annual WEF meeting held in Davos.)

4.2. INDIA-PALESTINE

Why in news?

India recently released third section of funding worth \$3 million for the construction of a **Palestine-India Techno Park**.

More on news

- India's **investment towards the Techno Park is part of an agreement signed** for setting up of a techno park with Indian grant of \$12 million.
- Its objective is to establish an environment accessible to industry, entrepreneurship and bridging the knowledge gap between the private sector and academia.

4.3. INDIA-IRAN

Why in news?

India and Iran recently agreed to accelerate development of Chabahar port.

About Chabahar port

- It is jointly being developed by **India, Iran and Afghanistan** for **multi-modal transport** of goods and passengers.
- It is **located in the Gulf of Oman**.
- **In 2017**, India sent its **first shipment of wheat to Afghanistan** through this port.
- It is seen as a **counter to Pakistan's Gwadar Port**, which is being developed with Chinese investment and is located at a distance of around 80-km from Chabahar.
- **India Ports Global Ltd** was incorporated as a **special purpose vehicle** for development and management of Shahid Beheshti Port of Chabahar in Iran. It was incorporated under Companies Act 2013, as a Special Purpose Vehicle jointly promoted by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust and Deendayal Port Trust.



4.4. KURDS

Why in news?

Turkey **attacked Kurdish-run territory in northern Syria**.

Details

- Kurds are the world's **largest stateless ethnic group**.
 - They live in the highlands of **southern and eastern Turkey, northern Iraq, the northeastern Syria, northwestern Iran, and parts of south Armenia**, and are a minority in each of these countries. Small communities live in **Georgia, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, and eastern Iran** as well.

- After World War One and the defeat of the Ottoman Empire, **the victorious Western allies made provision for a Kurdish state in the 1920 Treaty of Sevres.**
- But **the Treaty of Lausanne (1923)**, which set the boundaries of modern Turkey, made no provision for a Kurdish state and left Kurds with minority status in their respective countries.



Related news: Idlib

- It is situated in northwestern Syria, bordering Turkey.
- It is one of the last remaining strongholds controlled by forces opposed to Syrian Government.



SN	Location	About
1	Chabahar port, Iran	Being developed by India as part of India-Afghanistan-Iran transport-and-trade corridor
2	Gwadar port, Pakistan	Developed by China
3	Idlib, Syria	Last remaining strongholds controlled by forces opposed to Syrian Government
4	Khurais Oil field, Saudi Arabia	Were attacked by drone
5	Kurdish Inhabited Area	Kurds spread over Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran, and Armenia
7	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	Administrative centre of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
8	Zahedan, Iran	Part of India-Afghanistan-Iran transport-and-trade corridor
9	Zaranj, Afghanistan	Part of India-Afghanistan-Iran transport-and-trade corridor
10	Delaram, Afghanistan	Part of India-Afghanistan-Iran transport-and-trade corridor
11	Doha, Qatar	US Taliban agreement was signed here
12	Baku, Azerbaijan	18th Non-Aligned Movement summit
13	Hajigak mines, Afghanistan	India can export the iron ore extracted from the Hajigak mines
14	Duqm port, Oman	India got access to this port for military use

5. INDIA AND AFRICA

5.1. AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

Why in news?

The African Union (AU) recently launched African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) for goods and services.

About AfCFTA

- The AfCFTA would be world's largest FTA as it would create an **African Common Market of 1.2 billion people and a GDP of over \$3.4 billion.**
- The Free Trade zone should be **operational from July 2020**, as countries needed time to adapt to the agreed changes.
- AfCFTA will lead to a **60% boost in intra-African trade by 2022.**
- AfCFTA will bring the much-needed **formalisation in the African economy** with other benefits.
- **54 member** countries have already **signed it**, out of which 27 have ratified it.

About African Union (AU)

- AU is a **continental body** consisting of the **55 member states** that make up the countries of the African Continent.
- Its **secretariat** is at **Addis Ababa**, Ethiopia.
- It was officially **launched in 2002** in Durban, South Africa as a successor to the **Organisation of African Unity.**
- The AU is guided by its **vision** of "An Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena."
- To ensure the realization of its vision, **Agenda 2063** was developed as a strategic framework for Africa's long term socio-economic and integrative transformation.
- India in 2019 extended a **grant of \$50 million package** to Niger to host African Union Summit.

5.2. LIBYA SUMMIT

Why in news?

Heads of state and lawmakers from **Russia, Algeria, Turkey, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, France, Italy, Britain, China and the US** gathered recently in Berlin under the auspices of the UN to discuss the future of Libya.

More on news

- Summit's main goal is to get foreign powers wielding influence in the region to stop interfering in the war — be it through weapons, troops or financing.
- **Key agreements**
 - Participants **committed to refraining from interference in the armed conflict or in the internal affairs of Libya** and urge all international actors "to do the same".
 - Participant call on all parties concerned for a sustained **suspension of hostilities, de-escalation and a permanent ceasefire.** The participants invite the UN to establish "technical committees" to monitor the implementation of the truce.
 - It urges all Libyan parties to **resume the inclusive Libyan-led and Libyan-owned political process under the auspices of the UNSMIL** [the UN Support Mission in Libya] to reach an intra-Libyan solution.

About Libyan Crises

- **Libya** is a country in the Maghreb region (Northwest region) of Africa.
- Libya became independent as a kingdom in 1951. Post the coup of 1969, the country was ruled by **Muammar Gaddafi** till the Libyan Civil War in 2011.
- The Libyan crises begun with the Arab Spring protests of 2011, which led to a civil war, foreign military intervention, and the ousting and death of its dictator Muammar Gaddafi.
 - The **Arab Spring** was a series of anti-government protests, uprisings, and armed rebellions that spread across much of the Arab world in the early 2010s.

6. USA

6.1. TRUMP'S VISIT TO INDIA

Why in News?

Donald Trump recently visited India becoming first US President to come to India on a stand-alone visit in the seven decades of Indo-US diplomatic ties.

Key takeaways from recent visit

- **'Namaste Trump'** event was organised on the lines of **'Howdy, Modi!'** held in Houston last year.
- India-US upgraded their relationship to **'Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership'** from Global Strategic partnership.
- **US International Development Finance Corporation** announced \$600 million financing facility for renewable energy projects in India.
- **Strategic Convergence in the Indo-Pacific:** US appreciated India's role as a net provider of security in Indian Ocean Region and both countries decided to propose a new partnership between United States Agency for International Development (**USAID**) and **India's Development Partnership Administration for cooperation in third countries.**
- **Defence cooperation:** USA reaffirmed India's status as a **Major Defence Partner.**
 - \$2.6 billion worth of **24 Seahawk (MH-60 Romeo) anti-submarine warfare helicopters** for the Indian Navy and an \$800 million deal for the purchase of **6 AH-64E Apache attack helicopters** deals were finalised.
- Both sides decided to a setup a new **Counter-Narcotics Working Group** between their respective law enforcement agencies and decided to reinvigorate **Homeland Security Dialogue.**
 - Both sides called **Pakistan to rein in cross-border terror threats** and bring justice for the victims of 26/11 attack and the Pathankot terror attack of 2016.
- **Partnership for Global Leadership:** US reaffirmed support for India's permanent membership on a reformed U.N. Security Council and for India's entry to the **Nuclear Suppliers Group** at the earliest.
 - Both countries expressed interest in the concept of the **Blue Dot Network.**
 - US welcomed India's role in development and security assistance and providing connectivity in **Afghanistan.**

About Blue Dot Network

- Blue Dot Network was launched in 2019 on the sidelines of the 35th ASEAN Summit by the **US, Australia and Japan.**
- It is a joint project of the **US Overseas Private Investment Corporation**, in partnership with **Australia and Japan.**
- Initiative will **evaluate projects on various parameters**, in line with 'G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment' including level of public consultation, transparency in funding, debt traps and basic environment norms.
- Projects that meet the norms will get a **"blue dot" certification**, which will enable them to **attract private funding and not have to depend on state-funding alone.**
- This is seen as **alternative to 'predatory lending' and debt trap diplomacy of China** under **Belt and Road initiative (BRI)**, by facilitating foreign investment in projects that come under this network.
- **Differences as compared to BRI:**
 - **BRI involves direct money for infrastructural needs.** But Blue Dot doesn't involve direct money supply as it relies on private investments based on infrastructure's standards.
 - Blue Dot will require coordination among multiple stakeholders when it comes to grading projects.

6.2. INDIA-US 2+2 DIALOGUE

Why in news?

The second edition of India-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue recently took place in Washington D.C., U.S.A.

About 2+2 ministerial dialogue

- The 2+2 dialogue is an official meeting between **foreign & defence ministers** of India & U.S.A.
- This mechanism was **conceptualized in 2017** with an aim to enhance the Indo-US engagement on multiple issues ranging from defence, trade, policies that affects both countries relation, role in Indo-pacific region & terrorism etc.
- The **inaugural '2+2' Indo-US dialogue** was held in New Delhi in September 2018.

Key Outcomes of the dialogue

- **Signing of Industrial Security Annex (ISA)**- which will facilitate the **exchange of classified military information** between Indian and the U.S. defense industries, including the private sector.
- **Finalisation of Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP):** This will harmonise the two

side's processes for identification, development and execution of projects under the DTI.

- **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI):** United States has announced its commitment to be the founding member of the CDRI whose headquarters will be located in India.
- **Cooperation in Space-** Both sides have agreed to cooperate for exchange of information in **Space Situational Awareness (SSA)**, including space debris and space traffic management.
 - Space Situational Awareness (SSA) refers to keeping track of objects in orbit and predicting where they will be at any given time.
- **Signing of Science and Technology (S&T) Agreement-** It updates and replaces the 2005 Agreement and provides a framework for collaboration between the two countries.
- **The Young Innovators Internship Programme (YIIP)-** it will create short-term internship opportunities in the U.S. for Indian students at post-secondary level or recent graduates.

6.3. NATO ALLY-LIKE STATUS

Why in news?

Both the US Senate and House of Representatives have passed an amendment in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 to strengthen and enhance its major defence partnership with India. Both the versions of the text of the NDAA for FY 2020 are currently being reconciled in a joint committee.

More on news

- Upon enactment, the NDAA will thus ensure that the US State Department treats India as a non-member NATO ally for the purposes of the Arms Export Control Act.
- With this move following are the **benefits for India:**
 - Make India eligible for entry into cooperative **research and development projects** with the Department of Defense (DoD) on a shared-cost basis.
 - Enable purchase of depleted **Uranium anti-tank rounds.**
 - Give India a **Priority delivery** of ships and military ration.
 - Allow possession of **War Reserve Stocks** of Department of Defence owned equipment that are kept outside of American military bases

- **However, it does not impose burden on India-** As opposed to member nations who have to fund NATO, major non-NATO allies (MNNAs) and NATO allies are only involved in strategic working partnerships with NATO countries.

6.4. BASIC EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Why in news?

India USA decided for early conclusion **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA).**

About BECA

- It is **one of the four 'foundational' or enabling agreements with U.S.** meant to improve interoperability between the militaries and allow transfer of high-end military platforms.
- BECA will allow India to **use US geospatial maps** to get pinpoint military accuracy of automated hardware systems and weapons such as cruise and ballistic missiles.
- **Other "foundational" agreements** that US has signed with India:
 - **General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), signed in 2002:** enables the sharing of military intelligence between the two countries and requires each country to protect the others' classified information.
 - **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), signed in 2016:** permits (not binding) the military of either country to use the others' bases for re-supplying or carrying out repairs.
 - **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), signed in 2018:** enables the two countries to share secure communication and exchange information on approved equipment

6.5. QUAD

Why in news?

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (also known as the **QUAD**) was held at the **foreign minister's level for the first time** on the side-lines of the UN General Assembly.

About QUAD

- QUAD is currently an informal but increasingly being formalized **strategic dialogue** between the **United States, Japan, Australia and India.**
- The dialogue was **initiated in 2007** by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan. However, during the 2017 ASEAN Summits all four former members **re-joined in negotiations** to revive the quadrilateral alliance.

- Before this meet the Quadrilateral has so far met at the level of **Joint Secretary-rank officials only**.
- **Objective:** To develop one mechanism, one architecture that complements and supplements, other formats to **promote the free and open Indo-Pacific**.
 - To discuss **collective efforts** in group's shared commitments and **close cooperation** on counter terrorism, mentoring, assistance in disaster relief, airtime security, cooperation, development, finance and cybersecurity efforts.

6.6. INDIA OUT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Why in news?

US has recently removed India from its list of developing countries.

More on news

- Under the WTO rules, any country can “self-designate” itself as a developing country.
- But, United States Trade Representative (USTR) employed methodology that excludes countries which have per capita GNI above \$12,375 as per World Bank data, or are members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), G20, classified as “high income” by the World Bank

or account for more than 0.5% of global merchandise trade.

- So, **India (along with other countries like Brazil, Indonesia, South Africa) was removed** from the list of developing countries.
- US will now on consider India as a developed country for the purpose of deciding on **trade related practises and duty concessions**.

6.7. H-1B AND H-4 VISA

Why in news?

USA has ramped up H-1B denials under the executive order “Buy American and Hire American” and also H-4 visas have been issued at a much lower rate.

About H-1B visa and H-4 visa

- The **lottery-based H-1B** visas allow US companies to **employ foreign workers temporarily in specialised occupations** for three years, extendable to six years.
- The issuances are **capped at 85,000 a year**, but some employers such as universities and research non-profits are exempt.
- Out of the total H-1B applications in 2018, 74% came from India. Hence, **Indian applicants are most affected by the increase in visa denials**.
- **Spouses of H-1B workers are granted an H-4 visa**, through which some have been allowed to apply to work in the US.

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7. EUROPE

7.1. INDIA-UNITED KINGDOM RELATIONS

Why in News?

13th meeting of the India-UK **Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO)** was held recently in London.

About India – UK JETCO

- The **India – UK JETCO was established in 2005**, to further develop a **strategic economic relationship and develop business** led vehicles to enhance bilateral trade and investment.
- India – UK Trade and Economic Relations are reviewed annually by the JETCO at the level of **Commerce and Industry Minister**.
- In recent meet India and UK have agreed to set up **three new bilateral working groups to tackle barriers to trade in specific sectors** of food and drink, healthcare and data services.

Recent Developments in India-UK relations

- **Access India Programme:** High Commission of India, London initiated the 'Access India Programme' in September 2017 for facilitating investments by UK SMEs in India.
 - The primary focus of the AIP programme is on companies interested in investing in India i.e. those intending to set up manufacturing facilities as part of the 'Make in India' initiative.
- **Rupee-denominated bonds:** Over \$3.5 billion of rupee-denominated bonds have been issued in London since July 2016 including by HDFC, NTPC and NHAI.
- **Green Bonds:** Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) has raised \$500 million via a green bond offering and listed these instruments on the London Stock Exchange.
- **Varanasi Smart City Development Plan:** New technical assistance for the redevelopment of Varanasi railway station under the Varanasi Smart City Development Plan will be extended by the UK.
- **Supporting the Start-up India initiative:** UK will be investing £160 million across 75 start-up enterprises, apart from an additional £20million for a Start-Up India Venture Capital Fund.
- **First bond index series:** State Bank of India (SBI) launched India's first bond index series for overseas investors at the London Stock Exchange (LSE) in 2017.

7.2. INDIA-GERMANY RELATIONS

Why in news?

German Chancellor Angela Merkel along with a business delegation and cabinet colleagues came

to India for the fifth round of the **biennial Inter-Governmental Consultations**.

Key outcomes of the visit

- **Joint Declaration of Intent on the Indo-German Partnership on Green Urban Mobility** under which Germany will provide **additional finance of 1 billion euros**.
- Dedicate a part of the **35 million euros under the framework of the bilateral call of the International Climate Initiative** to grid expansion and storage systems for renewable energy and a part to forest landscape restoration.
- **"Indo-German Partnerships on Higher Education"** (IGP) was signed as part of the overall programme **"A New Passage to India"** to increase the number of Indian students studying in Germany.
- Both countries called for **cooperation of all countries in uprooting terror infrastructure, disrupting terrorist networks**.
- Germany will **facilitate export of military equipment as well as technology sharing with India including** maritime projects between the Indian and German naval industries (e.g. submarines).

7.3. INDIA-FRANCE

Why in News?

Indian Prime Minister's visit to France for a bilateral summit marked a further consolidation of the strong Indo-French strategic ties.

Recent developments in India France relations

- In recent visit, **Cooperation Agreement** was signed between the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing and Atos (a France based IT company) for developing cooperation in fields of **quantum computing, Artificial Intelligence and exascale supercomputing**.
- **Mutual Logistics Support Agreement**, that enables Indian naval warships to now seek access to the French naval base in Djibouti to refuel for an operational turnaround to return to Indian shores.
- **Launch of 8-10 satellites** as part of a "constellation" for maritime surveillance in the Indian Ocean region.
- French Space Agency CNES concluded an agreement with ISRO for training programmes and bioastronautics for a **human space flight-(Gaganyaan) by 2022**.

- The Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) entered into a Tripartite Agreement with French National Railways (SNCF) & AFD, a French development agency in **order to support Railway Station Development Program in India.**
- Joint Vision for Space Cooperation was signed in 2018.

7.4. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Why in news?

Parliamentary Assembly of the **Council of Europe** has recently voted in favour of restoring Russia's voting rights, five years after they were revoked over its illegal annexation of the Crimean Peninsula.

About Council of Europe

- **Council of Europe** is an international organization set up to promote democracy, as well as protect human rights and the rule of law on the continent of Europe.
- It was founded in 1949 by the **Treaty of London** and currently comprises of 47-member states, which include 28 members of the European Union.
- The **European Court of Human Rights**, part of the council, is charged with enforcing the **1953 European Convention on Human Rights**, which all members are pledged to uphold.
- The organization is made up of the **foreign ministers of all member states** and a **parliamentary assembly** of member legislators.



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8. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION/ INSTITUTIONS

8.1. UNITED NATIONS

8.1.1. UNSC NON-PERMANENT SEAT

Why in news?

India has won the unanimous support of all countries in the **55-member Asia-Pacific Group** at the United Nations in support of its bid for a **non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council (UNSC)** for a two-year term in 2021-22.

UNSC Membership

- Along with the five permanent members, the Security Council of the United Nations has ten temporary members that hold their seats on a rotating basis by geographic region.
- **Five permanent members:** China, France, Russia, UK, and the US.
- The **10 non-permanent seats** are distributed on a **regional basis**:
 - Five for African and Asian States;
 - One for Eastern European States;
 - Two for the Latin American and Caribbean States; and
 - Two for Western European and other States.
- **Each year the 193-member of UNGA elects five non-permanent members for a two-year term at the UNSC**, with five replaced each year.
- To be approved, a candidate must receive at **least two-thirds of all votes cast for that seat**, which can result in deadlock if there are two roughly evenly matched candidates.
- A retiring member **is not eligible for immediate re-election**.
- The **Asia-Pacific Group gets to nominate** one of its members for the 2020 elections to a non-permanent seat of UNSC.
- Currently the 10 non-permanent members are **Belgium, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and South Africa**.

Related information: What constitutes UNSC reform agenda?

Five sets of issues have been identified by the General Assembly. These are

1. Categories of membership
2. The question of the veto
3. Regional representation
4. Size of an enlarged Council and its working methods and
5. The Security Council-General Assembly relationship.

India's UN Roadmap

- India has already held a non-permanent seat on the UNSC for **seven terms**.
- India announced its candidacy for the 2021-22 seat at the end of 2013, with Afghanistan, a potential contender, withdrawing its nomination to accommodate India's candidacy based on the **"long-standing, close and friendly relations"** between the two countries.

8.1.2. UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Why in news?

UN General Assembly elected **14 States to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**.

About UNHRC

- It was **created by the General Assembly in March 2006** as the principal United Nations entity dealing with human rights.
- Human Rights Council **comprises 47 elected Member States**.
- On the basis of equitable geographical distribution, **Council seats are allocated to the five regional groups** as African States, 13 seats; Asia-Pacific States, 13 seats; Eastern European States, 6 seats; Latin American and Caribbean States, 8 seats; and Western European and other States, 7 seats.
- The members were elected by the assembly through **secret ballot, for a term of three years**.
- **Currently, India is elected member of UNHRC**. U.S. withdrew from UNHRC in 2018.

8.1.3. UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES

Why in News?

Indian peacekeepers in South Sudan received prestigious **UN medal**.

About UN Peacekeeping Forces

- UN Peacekeeping is an instrument developed by the UN as a way to help countries torn by conflict to create the conditions for lasting peace.
- The **first UN peacekeeping mission was established in May 1948**, to the Middle East to monitor the **Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours**.
- **Principles of UN peacekeeping:**
 - Consent of the parties
 - Impartiality
 - Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate

- The **financial resources** of UN Peacekeeping operations are the collective responsibility of UN Member States.
- **Decisions about the establishment, maintenance or expansion** of peacekeeping operations are taken by the **United Nations Security Council**.
- India has provided **more than 2 lakh military and police** officers to UN Peacekeeping over 70 years, in **more than 50 missions**, starting from **Korean War in 1950**.
- India has **lost the highest number of its peacekeepers** in various UN peacekeeping operations in the last 70 years, with 168 military, police and civilian personnel casualties.

Types of Medals given by UN

- **Dag Hammarskjöld Medal:** A posthumous award to members of peacekeeping operations who lost their lives during service with a peacekeeping operation.
- **Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal:** To be awarded to those military, police, civilian United Nations personnel and associated personnel who **demonstrate exceptional courage**.
- **UN Medal:** To be awarded to military personnel and civilian police who **are or have been in the service** of the United Nations.

8.1.4. UN HABITAT

Why in news?

India has been **elected to the Executive Board** of the first UN-Habitat Assembly.

About the session

- The first session of UN- Habitat assembly was held at the **headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi**.
- The special theme for the UN-Habitat assembly is **"Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities"**.

United Nations Sustainable Development Group

- Formed in 1997, it is a **consortium of UN** funds, programs, specialized agencies, departments and offices that play a role in development.
- It was created by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in order to improve the effectiveness of United Nations development activities at the country level.

About UN Habitat

- The **United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)** is the United Nations programme **for human settlements and sustainable urban development**.
- **Established in 1978** as an outcome of the First UN Conference on Human Settlements and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat I) held in Vancouver, Canada in 1976.
- **Mandate** is to **promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities**. It is the focal point for all urbanization and human settlement matters within the UN system.
- It is a member of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Group**.
- Under UN Habitat till now three conferences have been held:

Habitat I	Habitat II	Habitat III
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st UN Conference on Human Settlements, at Vancouver, (1976). • Vancouver Declaration urged countries to commit to human settlements policies by combining spatial planning with fundamentals of economic, social and scientific thinking, to alleviate the conditions of uncontrolled urbanization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd UN Conference on Human Settlements, Istanbul (1996). • Report titled An Urbanizing World: The Global Report on Human Settlements 1996 was released raising awareness on the need to put cities in the forefront of development strategies, and on the growing problem of poverty and poor housing conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, took place in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016. • It adopted The New Urban Agenda which is an action-oriented document setting global standards for the achievement of sustainable urban development, by rethinking the way we build, manage, and live in cities.

8.2. INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Why in news?

International Court of Justice (ICJ) in its report found that Pakistan had violated its obligations **Vienna Convention** in the case of Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav.

Feature	International Court of Justice (ICJ)	International Criminal Court (ICC)	Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)
Year Established	1946	2002	1899

UN Relationship	Official court of the U.N. , commonly referred to as the “World Court.”	Independent. May receive case referrals from the UN Security Council. Can initiate prosecutions without UN action or referral.	Independent. The organization is not a United Nations agency, but the PCA is an official United Nations Observer.
Location	Peace Palace, The Hague, The Netherlands	The Hague, The Netherlands	Peace Palace, The Hague, The Netherlands
Jurisdiction	U.N. member states (i.e. national governments)	Individuals	Its member states, international organizations or private parties.
Types of Cases	(1) Contentious between parties, (2) Advisory opinions	Criminal prosecution of individuals	Arbitral tribunal for international agreements.
Subject Matter	Sovereignty, boundary disputes, maritime disputes, trade, natural resources, human rights, treaty violations, treaty interpretation, and more.	Genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, crimes of aggression	Territorial and maritime boundaries, sovereignty, human rights, international investment, and international and regional trade.
Authorizing Legal Mechanism	States that ratify the U.N. Charter become parties to the ICJ Statute under Article 93. Non-UN member states can also become parties to the ICJ by ratifying the ICJ Statute. Each state must provide consent to any contentious case by explicit agreement, declaration, or treaty clause.	Rome Statute (India has not signed the Rome Statute)	The rules of arbitration procedure are outlined in Hague Convention of 1899 (which were amended in 1907).
Appeals	None. The ICJ decision in a contentious case is binding upon the parties . If a State fails to comply with the judgment, the issue may be taken to the UN Security Council, which has the authority to review, recommend, and decide upon enforcement.	Appeals Chamber. Article 80 of the Rome Statute allows retention of an acquitted defendant pending appeal.	None. The decisions of PCA are binding on the parties, and there is no mechanism for appeal.

Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963

- It defines the **guidelines for consular relations between the independent countries**.
- A consul normally operates out of an embassy in a different country and performs two functions: (1) **protecting the interests of the country** and the countrymen of the consul, and (2) furthering the commercial and economic relations between the two countries.
- They are afforded most of the same privileges, including a variation of diplomatic immunity called consular immunity, but these protections are not as extensive.

Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961

- It is an **international treaty of 1961** which gives a framework for diplomatic relations between independent countries.
- It specifies the **privileges of a diplomatic mission** that enable diplomats to perform their functions without fear of coercion or harassment by the host country.
- It forms the **legal basis for diplomatic immunity**.
- India is a party to both the above conventions.**

8.3. COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN ORGANISATION TREATY

Why in news?

India has been invited to join **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO)** in the capacity of an observer.

About Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

- It is a multilateral treaty that **bans all nuclear explosions**, for both civilian and military purposes, **in all environments**.
- Since the time it was opened for signature, **India did not support the treaty** based on its discriminatory nature.

PT 365 - International Relations

- It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1996. So far, **184 countries have signed the treaty and 168 of them have also ratified it** (most recently Ghana in 2011).
- It will come into force when all the **44 countries** which possess nuclear capability and research reactors agree to sign and ratify it.
 - **India, North Korea and Pakistan** have neither signed nor ratified the treaty whereas China, Egypt, Iran, Israel and the United States have signed but have not ratified the treaty.
- In order to operationalize this treaty, some measures have been taken to build trust among the states, such as-
 - **The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization-** Established in 1997, it has been working towards bringing the Treaty into force, making preparations for effective implementation, in particular by establishing its verification regime and also operate the **International Monitoring System (IMS)** in it.
 - **The CTBT verification regime-** to constantly monitors the planet for nuclear explosions and shares its findings with Member States. It consists of the-
 - ✓ **IMS-** a global network of sensors to detect possible nuclear explosions,
 - ✓ **International Data Centre (IDC)** and
 - ✓ **On-site inspections (OSI).**

Why India has not joined CTBT?

- **CTBT divides the world permanently into nuclear "haves and have-nots"**, as it favors the nuclear power states.
- **No time frame mentioned** to dismantle existing nuclear weapons and is silent on complete nuclear disarmament.
- **Does not address India's security concerns-** as India faces threats from hostile neighbourhood.
- **Would hinder India's strategic nuclear program development-** for scientific development and energy needs given its growing population and requirement of clean energy.

Other initiatives for De-Nuclearization

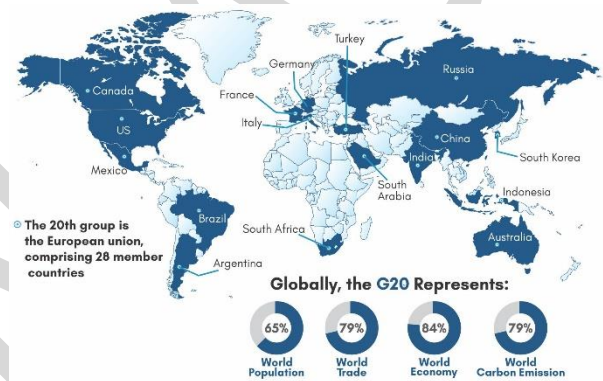
- **Nuclear Weapon Prohibition Treaty 2017:** It is the first multilateral legally-binding instrument for nuclear disarmament to have been negotiated in 20 years. It is not in force yet.
 - **India and other nuclear-armed nations** — the United States, Russia, Britain, China, France, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel **had not participated** in the negotiations.

- **Conference on Disarmament:** It was **formed in 1979** as the single multilateral disarmament negotiation forum of the international community. **India is one of its 65 members.**
- **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) 1968:** Its objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.
 - **India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and South Sudan are not parties** to this treaty.

8.4. G-20

Why in news?

The **14th G-20 summit** was recently held in **Osaka, Japan.**



Group of Twenty (G-20)

- It is an **international forum** for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union.
- The **first G20 Summit** was held in Berlin in December 1999 and was hosted by the finance ministers of Germany and Canada.
- It was formed in **1999** to discuss policies relating to financial stability, in the aftermath of the **Asian Financial Crisis of 1997-1998.**
- Its agenda was expanded **since 2008** including heads of governments / heads of states as well as finance ministers and foreign ministers.
- There are no formal criteria for G20 membership and the composition of the group has remained unchanged since it was established.
- For the first time, India will host the annual G-20 Summit in 2022.

Related information: Osaka track

- It is proposal by Japan that **seeks the removal of prohibitions on data localisation** and urges nations to negotiate rules on data flows, cloud computing among others. India, South Africa, and Indonesia have boycotted the **"Osaka Track"** on the **"digital economy"**.

- The 2019 G20 Summit in Osaka discussed **eight themes** which are crucial to ensure Global Sustainable Development, that are **Global Economy; Trade and Investment; Innovation; Environment and Energy; Employment; Women's Empowerment; Development; and Health.**

8.5. G-7

Why in news?

India was recently invited as a special guest for attending the 45th 'Group of Seven' (G-7) Summit in France.

About G-7

- It is an **intergovernmental organisation** that was formed in 1975.
- Members are **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United**

States which discuss issues such as global economic governance, international security, and energy policy.

- The G7 was known as the **'G8'** for several years after the original seven were joined by Russia in 1997. The Group returned to being called G7 after **Russia was expelled as a member in 2014** following the latter's **annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine.**
- The G7 nations meet at **annual Summits** that are presided over by **leaders of member countries on a rotational basis.**
- The G7 **does not have a formal constitution** or a fixed headquarters. The decisions taken by leaders during annual Summits are **non-binding.**
- India is not a member of the G7 group.**

OTHER KEY GLOBAL FORUMS

G4

The G4 nations comprising Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan are four countries which support each other's bids for permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council.

G5

A group of five nations which came together for global-level cooperation which is economic as well as political in nature.

MEMBERS

20th century (1974)	21st century (2005)
US, UK, West Germany, Japan, France	India, China, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa

PURPOSE

The G5 (created in 1974) originally referred to an informal forum which comprised the world's five most advanced economies that came together in response to the 1973 global financial crisis.

STRUCTURE

An informal group bound by shared principles and common policy enterprises.

CURRENT STATUS

Since 2005, the G5 is a forum for the world's largest emerging economies which are playing an active role in the rapidly changing international order.

G6

Unofficial forum which brings together the heads of the world's six richest economies.

MEMBERS

US, UK, France, Germany, Italy and Japan

PURPOSE

Meant to be a departure from the stiff formality of conventional international institutions, this forum was in the late 1970s and 1980s a significant element in cooperation between France and Germany, (represented by their then leaders, President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, respectively)

STRUCTURE

Informal discussion forum

CURRENT STATUS

G6 no longer exists exclusively because it evolved into the Group of Seven (G7), and later the Group of Eight (G8). However, the agendas set by G6 in its first meeting, such as avoiding protectionism, energy dependency and boosting growth, are still relevant for the world economy.

G20

The G20 is an international economic cooperation forum. According to IMF data, the G20 represent more than 80% of the global GDP.

MEMBERS

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, EU, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, UK & USA. (Spain is a permanent invitee)

PURPOSE

Created in response to the 1997 Asian economic crisis and the 1998 Russian financial crisis-that led to realisation that global economic decisions could not be made by the G7 alone and must include emerging economies.

STRUCTURE AND RELEVANCE

The forum operates without a permanent secretariat or staff. The chair or host rotates annually among the members. India is to host the G20 summit in 2022 as the forum chair. Since its inaugural leaders' summit in 2008, its relevance grew in stature and it may replace the G7 and G8 as the main economic council of wealthy nations.

G77

The Group of 77 at the United Nations is a coalition of 134 developing nations, designed to promote its members' collective economic interests and create an enhanced joint negotiating capacity in the United Nations.

8.6. BRICS

Why in news?

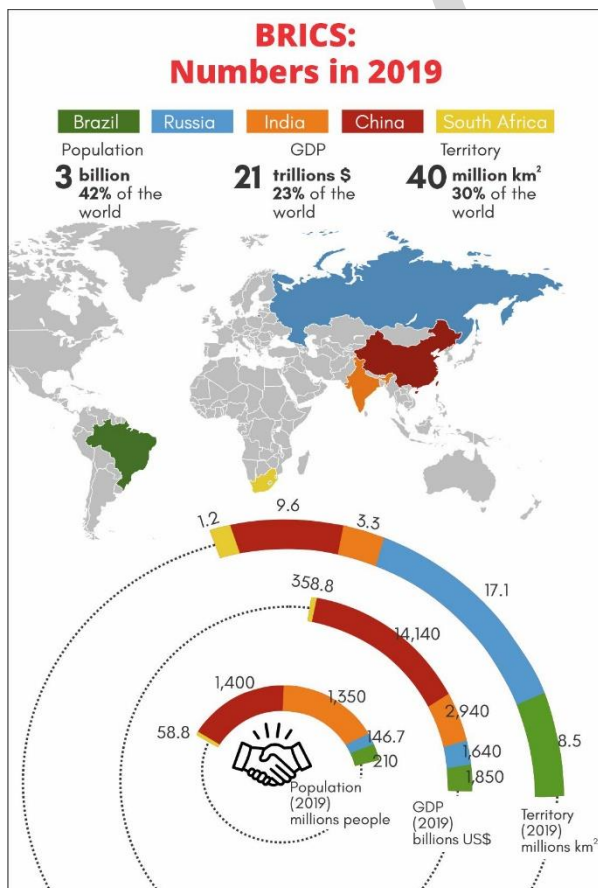
11th BRICS Summit was held in **Brasilia, Brazil** with the theme **"Economic Growth for an Innovative Future."** They adopted **Brasilia Declaration**.

What is BRICS?

- British economist **Jim O'Neill** had coined the acronym "BRIC" in 2001.
- It was **officially formed in 2006**, originally including **Brazil, Russia, India and China**. Its **first summit** took place at Russia in 2009.
- In 2010, South Africa became the 5th member of the grouping.

Some achievements of BRICS

- New Development Bank (Treaty signed in 2014)** in which every BRICS country contributes equally to its corpus and has equal voting rights.
- Setting up of the **BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)** with an initial size of \$100 billion to tackle short-term liquidity demands.
- Both NDB and CRA were outcome of **BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (2014)**.
- A **Women's Business Alliance** was launched at **Brasilia 2019**, to bring a new perspective on business issues.



8.7. SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION

Why in news?

The countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) adopted the **Bishkek Declaration** in 19th SCO summit, recently held at Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek.

About SCO

- SCO is a Eurasian **political, economic, and military organisation**. It is headquartered in Beijing, China.
- The origins of SCO are traced to **'Shanghai-5' (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia & Tajikistan)** was established in 1996.
- In **2001**, Uzbekistan joined the grouping & it was renamed as Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
- Currently, SCO has:
 - 8 Member States** - China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India (joined in 2017) and Pakistan;
 - 4 Observer States** - Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia and
 - 6 Dialogue Partners** - Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey and Sri Lanka.
- Official working languages of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation are **Chinese and Russian**.
- It has **two permanent bodies** — the **SCO Secretariat** based in Beijing and the Executive Committee of the **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)** based in Tashkent.
- Council of Heads of State** is the top decision-making body in the SCO.
- Its driving philosophy is known as the **"Shanghai Spirit"** which emphasizes harmony, working by consensus, respect for other cultures, non-interference in the internal affairs of others, and non-alignment.



8.8. NATO

Why in news?

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit was recently held in London which also marked its 70th anniversary.

About NATO

- It is also called as the **North Atlantic Alliance**, an **intergovernmental military alliance** between 29 North American and European countries.
- The alliance was established by the **North Atlantic Treaty 1949**.
- It constitutes a system of **collective defence**. i.e. NATO's Article 5 states, "an armed attack upon one... shall be considered an attack upon them all."
- Its **Headquarters** are located in **Haren, Brussels, Belgium**.

8.9. COMMONWEALTH

Why in news?

Maldives has re-joined the Commonwealth, bringing the total number of nations in the global organization to 54.

About the Commonwealth

- It is a **political association of 54-member states**, nearly all of them former territories of the British Empire. Last 2 countries to join the Commonwealth - **Rwanda and Mozambique** - **have no historical ties to the British Empire**.
- All member countries of the Commonwealth must subscribe to the values and principles of the **Commonwealth charter**, including a commitment to the **development of free and democratic societies and the promotion of peace and prosperity**.
- The chief institutions of the organisation are the **Commonwealth Secretariat**, which focuses on intergovernmental aspects, and the **Commonwealth Foundation**, which focuses on non-governmental relations between member states.
- It was originally created as the **British Commonwealth** through the **Balfour Declaration** at the 1926 Imperial Conference and formalised by the United Kingdom through the **Statute of Westminster in 1931**.
- The current Commonwealth of Nations was formally constituted by the **London Declaration in 1949**, which modernised the community, and established the member states as "free and equal".

- Member states **have no legal obligations to one another**. Instead, they are united by English language, history, culture and their shared values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.
- Commonwealth member countries choose who becomes **Head of the Commonwealth**.
- **India** is a member of the Commonwealth.

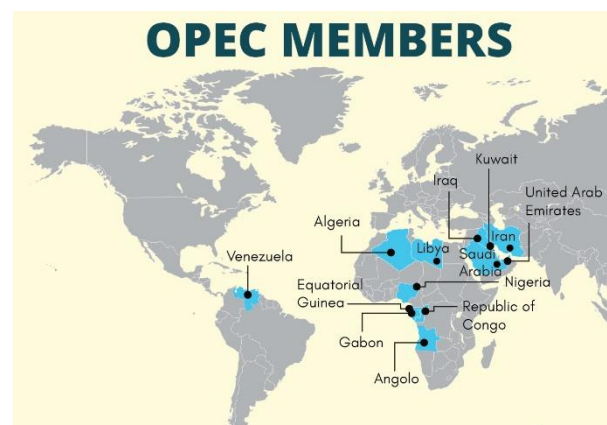
8.10. ORGANIZATION OF THE PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OPEC)

Why in news?

Ecuador has withdrawn its membership of OPEC.

About OPEC

- It is an **intergovernmental organisation** whose stated **objective** is to "co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers; an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations; and a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry."
- It is **headquartered at Vienna, Austria**.
- It was set up at the **1960 Baghdad Conference** with Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela as founding members.
- It accounts for an estimated 44 percent of global oil production and 81.5 percent of the world's "proven" oil reserves.



8.11. ARCTIC COUNCIL

Why in news?

India was re-elected as an Observer to the Arctic Council.

About the Arctic Council

- It was established by the **eight Arctic States through the Ottawa Declaration of 1996**. **These are**— Canada, Denmark (including

Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States.

- It is **not a formalized treaty-based international legal entity** and does not allocate resources.
- **Six organisations representing the indigenous people of the Arctic** region have also been granted the status of permanent participants in the Council.
- It is one of the leading intergovernmental forums, for discussing issues concerning the Arctic region, including **scientific research**, and **peaceful and sustainable use of resources** in the region.
- All decision-making happens through **consensus** between the permanent members.
- The Council **does not prohibit the commercial exploitation** of resources in the Arctic.
- India became observer for the first time in 2013.

that the benefits of integration are equitably shared, and to coordinate foreign policy.

- **Formed in 1973, and Chairmanship of the Community is rotated every six months** among the member countries.
- **Seat of Secretariat: Georgetown, Guyana**
- The India- CARICOM meet focused on fighting climate change and increasing India's participation with the grouping.
- India announced 14 million US dollar **grant for community development projects** in Caricom & 150 million line of **credit for solar, renewable energy and climate change related projects**.



India and Arctic region

- **Himadri**, India's only research station in the region opened in 2008.
- National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research was renamed as the **National Centre for Polar and Oceanic Research (NCPOR)** in 2018.
- **Norwegian Programme for Research Cooperation with India (INDNOR)**: India and Norway's bilateral research cooperation.
- **National Centre for Polar and Oceanic Research (NCPOR)** signed a contract with **FESCO Transportation Group** for access to the icebreaker vessel which will be utilised both for general cargo deliveries to Antarctic stations and scientific activities in the Arctic region as India currently lacks a Polar-suitable vessel.
- **India's ONGC (Videsh)** holds a 26-percent stake in Russia's Vankorneft project (to produce hydrocarbons from Vankor field in Siberia).
- **IndARC** is India's first underwater moored observatory in the Arctic region.



8.12. CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

Why in news?

Prime Minister of India addressed 1st **India-Caricom leaders' summit** in **New York**.

About Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

- It is treaty among **Caribbean countries** to promote economic integration and cooperation among its members, to ensure

SN	Location	About
1	Quito, Ecuador	UN Habitat-3 took place here
2	Brasilia, Brazil	11 th BRICS Summit, 2019
3	Aconcagua mountain, Argentina	Highest peak (6962 metres) outside Asia (Andes mountain range)

9. INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

9.1. BREXIT: UK LEAVES THE EUROPEAN UNION

Why in News?

The United Kingdom has officially left the European Union (EU) after 47 years of membership.

Background on BREXIT

- In 2016, a **referendum** took place to decide whether UK should stay in European Union. In the referendum people decided that UK should leave EU.
- In 2017, UK formally triggered **Article 50 of Lisbon treaty** and began the two-year countdown of BREXIT in 2019.
- However, due to lack of support for the BREXIT deal in the UK's parliament, multiple extensions were sought by it.
- On 31st January **UK became the first state to leave** the EU and an 11-month transition period has kicked in.

Changes in UK and EU relations during the transition phase

- UK will **vacate its position from all EU institutions** including membership in EU's parliament.
 - British ministers will no longer attend regular EU meetings, and the Prime Minister will no longer be an automatic attendee at EU Council summits, although he can still join if he is given a special invitation.
- During the **transition period, the UK will continue to obey EU rules and make payments to the EU, i.e.:**
 - For any legal dispute of UK with an EU member country, the **European Court of Justice** will be the final adjudicator.
 - Till a deal is signed between EU and UK the trade rules of pre-BREXIT era will continue to be applicable. However, **Britain is now free to negotiate with other countries individually.**
 - The UK will continue to contribute to the EU Budget as of now. Also, existing schemes that are funded by EU grants will continue to be funded.

European Union (EU)

- It is an **economic and political union** involving 27 European countries.

- It allows **free trade and free movement of people**, to live, trade and work in whichever country they choose.
- **Article 50 of Lisbon Treaty** provides for exit of member countries from European Union.
 - For any country to come out of European Union, it has to negotiate a settlement deal with EU.
- It has its own currency, the **euro**, which is used by 19 of the member countries (called eurozone), its own parliament and other institutions
- **European Parliament** members (751 members) are **directly elected by voters in all Member States.**
- **It acts as a co-legislator**, sharing with **European Council** (EC) power to adopt and amend legislative proposals and to decide on EU budget.
- EC is a collective body that defines EU's overall political direction and priorities. It comprises of **heads of state or government of the EU member states**, along with the **President of the EC and President of the European Commission.**
- The United Kingdom joined EU in 1973.



9.2. IRAN-USA STANDOFF

Why in news?

In an air raid, the US recently struck and killed Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Quds Force.

- **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)**, also called **Pasdaran**, is a branch of the Iranian armed forces, independent of Iran's regular army.
- **Quds Force is a wing of IRGC** which is responsible primarily for its foreign operations.

More in News

- US alleged that General Soleimani was actively developing plans to attack American diplomats and service members in Iraq and throughout the region.

- Iran also recently abandoned nuclear deal limits prescribed under **Joint Comprehensive plan of Action (JCPOA)**.

Background

- The Iran deal, also known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is an agreement reached in 2015 between **Iran and six world countries - US, China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany, plus the EU (i.e. P5+Germany+EU)**.
- Under the agreement **Iran agreed to completely eliminate its stock of medium enriched uranium, reduce the stock of low enriched uranium by 98% and reduce almost by 2/3rd its gas centrifuges for 13 years.**
- Until 2031, Iran will have to comply with any International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) access request. If it refuses, the commission can decide on punitive steps, including the re-imposition of sanctions through a majority vote.
- In 2018 USA **unilaterally announced to decertify the nuclear deal.** The reason sighted by the USA for withdrawal is that the **deal does not target- Iran’s ballistic missile programme and its nuclear activities beyond 2025.**



About IAEA

- It is the world's central intergovernmental forum **for scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear field.**
- It is an autonomous international organization **within the United Nations system** set up in July 1957 through its **own international treaty, the IAEA Statute.**
- The IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.
- It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and security and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.
- It is **headquartered in Vienna, Austria.**
- **India is a member of IAEA.**
- The objective of IAEA Safeguards is to deter the spread of nuclear weapons by the early detection of the misuse of nuclear material or technology.

- In 2009, an Agreement between the Government of India and the IAEA for the Application of Safeguards to Civilian Nuclear Facilities was signed.
- Then in 2014, India ratified an **Additional Protocol** (as part of its commitments under US-India nuclear deal) to its safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- The AP is an important tool of the IAEA, over and above the provisions of the safeguard agreement, to verify the exclusively peaceful nature of a country's nuclear programme.

- Related news: INSTEX Barter Mechanism**
- Recently, 6 European countries, **Belgium, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden** have decided to join the **Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX)** mechanism.
 - INSTEX is a Paris based special purpose vehicle setup by Germany, France and the UK that **allows European businesses to trade with Iran, despite strict US sanctions.**
 - It runs a **barter arrangement** which allows Iran to continue trade and import products or services from member European countries in exchange for exports.

9.3. US-TALIBAN AGREEMENT

Why in news?

United States of America signed the **“Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan”** with the Taliban in Doha, Qatar.

Key Highlights of the Agreement

- **Withdrawal of foreign forces.** The United States agreed to reduce its number of troops in the country from roughly 12,000 to 8,600 within 135 days.
 - If the Taliban follows through on its commitments, all U.S. and other foreign troops will leave Afghanistan within fourteen months.
- **Release of prisoners-** The deal also provides for a prisoner swap. Some 5,000 Taliban prisoners and 1,000 Afghan security force prisoners would be exchanged by 10 March, when talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government are due to start.
- **Recognition to Taliban-** The US will move to the United Nations Security Council to remove Taliban members from the sanctions list.
- **Counter terror measures-** The Taliban would prevent any terror group from using Afghanistan to threaten the security of US and its allies.

- **Intra-Afghan Negotiations-** will be started among all the stakeholders of the Afghan society and the Taliban would commit towards it. The Taliban agreed to start talks with the Afghan government in March 2020. Throughout the negotiating process, the Taliban had resisted direct talks with the government, calling it an American puppet.
 - **Permanent and comprehensive ceasefire-** will be an item on agenda of intra-Afghan dialogue and negotiations.

India's stance on Afghan peace process

- Earlier, India has called for “**Afghan-led, Afghan-owned, and Afghan-controlled**” process, with participation of the Afghanistan government.
- Later, India said it is committed to “**any process**” which can help Afghanistan emerge as a united, peaceful, secure, stable, inclusive and economically vibrant nation, with guaranteed gender and human rights.
- India had laid down **three red lines** for the process-
 - All initiatives and processes must **include all sections of the Afghan society**, including the legitimately elected government.
 - Any process should **respect the constitutional legacy** and political mandate.
 - Any process should not lead to **any ungoverned spaces where terrorists** and their proxies can relocate.

9.4. US-CHINA TRADE WAR

Why in News?

US formally labelled China a **currency manipulator**, further escalating its trade war with China.

More about news

- It's the **first time that the US labeled a country a manipulator since the 1990s**, when China was also the target.
- **Currency manipulation** happens when governments try to artificially tweak the exchange rate to gain an “unfair” advantage in trade.
- The move came after the People's Bank of China (PBOC), the central bank of **China**, **allowed the yuan to suddenly depreciate** relative to the dollar by 1.9 per cent — one of the biggest single-day falls.

More on US-China trade war

- A **trade war happens** when one country retaliates against another by raising import tariffs or placing other restrictions on the opposing country's imports.
- The US and China trade is **heavily skewed in favour of the China**. In 2018, the **US had a trade deficit of \$419.2 billion** with China.
- The **US has imposed tariffs** on \$250 billion of Chinese goods, having accused the country of unfair trade practices. **China hit back with duties** on \$110 billion of US goods.
- To solve this deadlock, US and China had decided to try to get into an agreement in phases.
 - **Phase one** has focused on the trade balance and tariffs. **Phase two** is expected to deal more deeply with intellectual property enforcement and economic reform in China.
- **Phase one agreement includes following:**
 - U.S. will be maintaining 25% tariffs on approximately \$250 billion of Chinese imports while reducing tariffs on \$120 billion worth of goods to 7.5%.
 - Commitments from China to import various US goods and services over the next two years, the total amount for which will exceed China's annual levels of imports for those goods and services in 2017 by not less than \$200 billion.
- The **agreement is a deal in principle**, which means if China breaks any part of the agreement, the US can re-implement tariffs.

9.5. MIDDLE EAST PEACE PLAN

Why in news?

US President Donald Trump unveiled his Middle East peace plan, **Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People** aimed at solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

What the Trump's Peace Plan suggested?

- **Jerusalem** will be the **sovereign capital of Israel**. **Capital of Palestine** should be in the section of East Jerusalem and could be called **Al Quds**.
- The plan gives the Israelis and Palestinians **four years to accept the borders** on the conceptual map.
- **\$50 billion investment** fund to boost the Palestinian and neighbouring Arab state economies.

- Upon signing the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Agreement, Israel will maintain overriding security responsibility for the State of Palestine, with the aspiration that the Palestinians will be responsible for as much of their internal security as possible.
- **Port Facilities:** The State of Israel will allow the State of Palestine to use and manage earmarked facilities at both the Haifa and Ashdod ports
- **Dismantling of Hamas:** Hamas currently governs Gaza, so removing it would significantly change the coastal strip.



India's stance on Israel Palestine conflict

- India **believes in the 2-state solution** and has maintained a balanced approach. It supports the establishment of a sovereign independent and a viable state of Palestine along with maintaining India's growing relationship with Israel.

Global response for the plan

- **Palestine:** Immediately rejected the plan.
- **Israel:** Praised the plan and called it a "realistic path to a durable peace".
- **India:** Reaffirmed its call for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and asked both sides to resolve all issues through direct negotiations.
- Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) rejected the plan.

About OIC

- It is an **inter-governmental organization** founded in 1969 with a **membership of 57 states** spread over four continents. **India is not a member.**
- The organisation states that it is "the **collective voice of the Muslim world**" and works to "safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony."
- **Official languages:** Arabic, English, French
- **Administrative centre:** Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

9.6. NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT SUMMIT

Why in news?

Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu attended the **18th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit at Baku in Azerbaijan.**

More about the news

- **Theme of the summit:** 'Upholding the Bandung Principles to ensure concerted and adequate response to the challenges of contemporary world'.
- This is the **second time in a row that PM Narendra Modi will skip the summit.**

About NAM

- NAM has its origin in the Asia-Africa Conference held in Bandung, Indonesia in 1955. "**Ten Principles of Bandung**", were proclaimed at that Conference were guiding principles of NAM.
- NAM was founded and held its **first conference (the Belgrade Conference) in 1961** under the leadership of **India (Jawaharlal Nehru), Yugoslavia (Josip Broz Tito), Egypt (Gamal Abdel Nasser)**
- **Ghana (Kwame Nkrumah), and Indonesia (Sukarno).**
- It has **120 members as of 2018** comprising 53 countries from Africa, 39 from Asia, 26 from Latin America and the Caribbean and 2 from Europe (Belarus, Azerbaijan). There are 17 countries and 10 international organizations that are Observers at NAM.

9.7. CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA

Why in news?

Fifth Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Summit was held at **Dushanbe, Tajikistan.**

About CICA

- CICA is a **multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation** towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.
- It pursues its policy based on the principles of **sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs of the Member States and economic, social and cultural cooperation.**
- For becoming a member of CICA, a state must have **at least a part of its territory in Asia.**

- The CICA Summit is convened **every four years**.
- CICA was formed based on a proposal by Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev.
- **United Nations, has the observer status.**
- India is a **founding member** of the CICA.

9.8. CHRISTCHURCH CALL TO ACTION

Why in news?

A document called "**Christchurch Call to Action**" was signed and adopted with participation from 26 nations, including India.

More on news

- The initiative was taken up by the governments of **France and New Zealand** along with top social media companies after the Christchurch attacks **to combat online extremism and secure the Internet**.
- It outlines **collective, voluntary commitments** from governments and online service providers intended to address the issue of violent extremist content online and to prevent abuse of the internet, while maintaining international human right laws.
- The signatories include France, New Zealand, European Commission, Ireland, Norway, Senegal, Canada, Jordan, UK, Indonesia, Australia, Germany, Japan, Spain, Netherlands, Sweden and India.
- **US declined to join the Call** citing freedom of expression and freedom of the press as reasons it would not be joining the agreement.

Other similar initiatives

- **Tech against Terrorism** is an initiative launched and supported by the **United Nations Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (UN CTED)** working with the global tech industry to tackle terrorist use of the Internet whilst respecting human rights.
- **Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT)** is an **industry led initiative**, working in close partnership with UNCTED to substantially disrupt terrorists' ability to promote terrorism, disseminate violent extremist propaganda.
- **Aqaba Process** was established by the Jordan to counter radicalization and extremism in Arab World and promote moderate Islam.
- **Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF)** is an informal, apolitical & multilateral CT platform, launched in 2011. It develops training modules, good practices and ICT tools to strengthen CT civil capabilities and national strategies. **India is a founding member of GCTF.**

9.9. FATF WATCH-LIST

Why in news?

Financial Action Task Force decided to put Pakistan on **grey list** (officially called "**Other monitored jurisdictions**") till June, 2020.

More about the news

- Putting a country in "**grey list**" **does not involve a direct legal or penal action** but involve increased scrutiny from watchdogs, regulators and financial institutions.
- Now Pakistan is **required to submit an action plan to FATF** to curb terror financing and money laundering by May.
- The group can place Pakistan on its **blacklist** or "**Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories**" (NCCTs), along with **North Korea and Iran** if it fails to act appropriately.

Financial Action Task Force

- It is an **inter-governmental body** established in 1989 and housed in **OECD headquarters in Paris**.
- It has 39 full members, comprising 37 member jurisdictions and two regional organisations (European Union, Gulf Cooperation Council) currently and **India is also a member**.
- Its **objectives** are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for **combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats** to the integrity of the **international financial system**.

9.10. ROHINGYA ISSUE IN ICJ

Why in news?

International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that Myanmar must take effective measures to protect its Rohingya Muslims, including protecting evidence relating to allegations of genocide.

More on news

- In November 2019, the **Republic of the Gambia moved the ICJ against Myanmar** over alleged violations of the **Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide**.
- Both Gambia and Myanmar are parties to the Genocide Convention that allows a party to move the ICJ for violations of the convention under article 9 of the Convention.
- ICJ ordered Myanmar to take all measures in its power to prevent genocide against the Rohingya.

About Rohingyas

- They are a **predominantly Muslim group living mainly in Rakhine State** (Arakan Region) on the Myanmar's western coast. They speak a dialect of Bengali, as opposed to the commonly spoken Burmese language.
- Myanmar considers them as persons who migrated to their land during the Colonial rule. So, it **has not granted Rohingyas full citizenship**.
- India legally deports the Rohingya to Myanmar since it is **not party to the 1951 Convention on Refugees and its 1967 Protocol**. Both these legal instruments enshrine the **principle of non-refoulement** or the obligation of state parties to not return refugees to countries where they face a clear threat of persecution.
- They are treated as illegal immigrants in India and India does not have any domestic law on procedure or law that governs the protection of refugees in India.
- In response to the humanitarian crisis being faced on account of the large influx of refugees into Bangladesh, Government of India extended assistance to Bangladesh under **Operation Insaniyat**.

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

- Unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, the **Convention entered into force in 1951**.
- 152 states have ratified or acceded to the treaty, most **recently Mauritius in 2019**.
- It **defines genocide** in legal terms as any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:
 - Killing members of the group;
 - Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
 - Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
 - Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
 - Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.
- **India ratified the treaty in 1959.**

Related news: Bhashan Char Island

- Around 6000-7000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh are to be relocated to the newly built camp on **the Bhashan Char Island, Bangladesh**.
 - Bhashan Char, also known as Thengar Char is located in the Bay of Bengal.
 - The island was formed with the Himalayan silt in 2006 on the **mouth of river Meghna**.

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10. ISSUES RELATED TO SECURITY

10.1. INDIAN ARMED FORCES

10.1.1. CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF (CDS)

Why in news?

- Ministry of Defence (MoD) created the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to provide “effective leadership at the top level” to the three wings of the armed forces.
- The outgoing Army chief, **Gen. Bipin Rawat has been appointed as the country’s first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).**

Background

- The first proposal for a CDS came from the **Kargil Review Committee (KRC)**, set up in 2000.
- Later, the **Group of Ministers Task Force** that studied the KRC Report, proposed that a CDS would be created.
- In 2011, the **Naresh Chandra Committee on defence and security** also suggested a watered-down version of the CDS proposal.
- **Shekatkar Committee (in 2016)** also opined for CDS.

About CDS

- The post of Chief of Defence Staff created in the **rank of a four-star General** with salary and perquisites equivalent to a Service Chief.
- The post is created to
 - **promote jointness** in procurement, training and staffing for the Services.
 - **for optimal utilisation** of resources.
 - **promote use of indigenous equipment** by the Services.
- **65 years** has been set as the **maximum serving age for the CDS.**
- CDS will also head the **Department of Military Affairs (DMA)**, created within the Ministry of Defence and function as its **Secretary.**
- He would be primus inter pares or **first among equals** and vested with the authority to **provide directives to the three chiefs.**
- CDS will act as the **principal military adviser** to the defence minister on all tri-services matters.
- The three Chiefs will continue to advise Defence Minister on matters exclusively concerning their respective Services.
- CDS **will not exercise any military command**, including over the three Service Chiefs.
- He will serve as the **permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (CoSC)** which comprises the three service chiefs.

- As the Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee, CDS will perform the following functions:

- CDS will **administer** tri-services organisations including those related to **Cyber and Space.**
- Be a member of the **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** chaired by the Defence Minister and the Defence Planning Committee headed by National Security Advisor
- Function as the **Military Adviser to the Nuclear Command Authority.**
- Implement the **five-year Defence Capital Acquisition Plan (DCAP)** and the two-year roll on **Annual Acquisition Plans** as a follow up of the Integrated Capability Development Plan.
- Assign **inter-Services prioritization** to capital acquisition proposals based on the anticipated budget.
- Bring about **reforms in the functioning of three Services.**

Functions of DMA

The following areas will be dealt by the **Department of Military Affairs headed by CDS:**

- The Armed Forces of the Union, namely, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.
- Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence comprising Army Headquarters, Naval Headquarters, Air Headquarters and Defence Staff Headquarters.
- The Territorial Army.
- Works relating to the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.
- Procurement exclusive to the Services except capital acquisitions, as per prevalent rules and procedures.

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)

- It is the **highest decision-making body** in the Ministry of Defence for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services (Army, Navy and Air Force) and the Indian Coast Guard.
- **Minister of Defence** is the Chairman of the Council.

Related news

Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA)

- Government has decided to **rename IDSA** as Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.
- IDSA is an **autonomous body under Ministry of Defence**, dedicated to objective research and policy relevant studies on all aspects of defence and security.

- Its aim is to promote national and international security through the generation and dissemination of knowledge on defence and security-related issues.

10.1.2. INDIAN TRI-SERVICES COMMAND UNIT

Why in News?

First chief of the Armed Forces Special Operations Division was appointed.

About Armed Forces Special Operations Division

- It is tri-services command of Indian Armed Forces.
- It will have Special Forces **commandos from Army's Parachute Regiment, Navy's MARCOS and Air Force's Garud Commando Force.**
- These three units will function under the **Integrated Defence Staff (IDS).**
- This division will have around 3,000 trained commandoes to **carry out warfare in jungles, at sea and attack or rescue helicopter operations.**
- It will also **be responsible for conducting missions** that include targeting strategic installations, high-value targets in terms of terrorists and crippling the war-fighting capabilities of the enemy.

Integrated Defence Staff (IDS)

- It is an organisation responsible for fostering **coordination and enabling prioritisation across the different branches of the Indian Armed Forces.**
- It is composed of representatives from the **Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Ministry of External Affairs, Defence Research and Development Organisation, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Finance.**
- It is **headed by Chief of Integrated Defence Staff** along with Deputy Chiefs of Integrated Defence Staff.
- The body **advises and assists the chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (now held by CDS).**
- It was established in 2001 after the recommendations of the **Kargil Review Committee.**

Chiefs of Staff Committee

- A committee of three Commanders-in-Chief of the three armed forces (i.e. Army, Navy and Air Force) is called Chief of Staff Committee.
- It advises the Defence Minister and through him all the matters relating to military are seen further by Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs.

10.1.3. INTEGRATED BATTLE GROUPS

Why in News?

The Indian Army plans to raise new integrated battle groups.

About Integrated battle groups (IBGs)

- IBGs are **brigade-sized, agile, self-sufficient combat formations**, which can swiftly launch strikes against adversary in case of hostilities.
- Each IBG would be **tailor-made based on Threat, Terrain and Task** and resources will be allotted based on the three Ts.
- They are battle formations with heavy firepower that will **combine infantry, armour, artillery, engineers, logistics and support units** to bring together all necessities to fight a war.
- The **first three IBGs to be set up** in the plains of Jammu, Punjab and Rajasthan **along the Pakistan border.**
- The establishment of these groups **will do away with the older formation of troops**, which included around 8 to 10 brigades, each with 3 to 4 battalions. Instead, an IBG will have just about 6 battalions.

Structure in Indian Army

- While a **command is the largest static formation of the Army** spread across a defined geography, a **corps is the largest mobile formation.**
- Typically, **each corps has about three brigades.** Brigades are the smallest battle formations in the Indian Army.
- The **IBGs will be even smaller than brigades**, to make them more flexible and allow for faster mobilisation of troops.

10.1.4. ARMED FORCES (SPECIAL POWERS) ACT

Why in news?

Ministry of Home Affairs extends Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in Nagaland for another 6 months.

About AFSPA

- It was enacted in the year **1958 by the parliament of India** and grants extraordinary powers and immunity to the armed forces to bring back order in the **disturbed areas.**
- Some of these extra-ordinary powers include:
 - Fire upon anyone after giving warning who is acting against law & order in the disturbed area.
 - Arrest anyone without warrant.
 - Stop and search any vehicle or vessel.
 - Armed forces personnel have legal immunity for their actions.
- **Presently AFSPA is operational** in entire States of **Assam, Nagaland, Manipur (except Imphal Municipal area), and parts of Arunachal Pradesh.**

- AFSPA, enacted in the year 1958, **grants extraordinary powers and immunity to the armed forces** to bring back order in the “disturbed areas”.
 - **Areas are considered disturbed** “by reason of differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities”.
- **Central Government, or Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory** can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.
- Once declared, the region has to maintain the status quo for a minimum of three months (according to **Disturbed Areas (Special Courts) Act, 1976**).
- This Bill additionally empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases.
- **Insertion to schedule of treaties:** There were nine treaties listed in a schedule (like Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997), and the Convention against Taking of Hostages (1979)) to the Act, according to which the Act defines terrorist acts to include acts committed under those treaties.
 - This Bill adds the **International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005)** to the list.

Some other laws to prevent terror activities

- National Safety Act (NSA), 1980
- Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958
- **Many states have their own anti-terror laws** – such as the Maharashtra Control of Organized Crime Act, 1999; Chhattisgarh Special Public Security Act, 2005; Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978; and Andhra Pradesh Public Security Act, 1992.

10.2. UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) AMENDMENT ACT, 2019

Why in news?

The **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019** was passed in the Parliament of India.

Key Amendments to the legislation

- **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967** was enacted to provide for the more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations and for matters connected therewith.
- **Expands the scope of terror entities-** Previously the central government may designate an organisation as a terrorist organisation, if it prepares or commits or participates or promotes or otherwise involved in terrorism.
 - Now the government is empowered to **designate individuals as terrorists** on the same grounds.
- **Approval for seizure of property-** Earlier an investigating officer was required to obtain the prior approval of the Director General of Police to seize properties that may be connected with terrorism.
 - Now, if the investigation is conducted by an officer of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the approval of the Director General of NIA would be required for seizure of such property.
- **Empowering NIA:** Earlier, the investigation of cases may be conducted by officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police or above.

10.3. NIA (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019

Why in news?

The Parliament recently passed the **National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Act 2019**, which seeks to expand the powers and jurisdiction of the NIA.

Background

- The **NIA Act, 2008**, governs the functioning of India's premier counterterror agency, the **National Investigation Agency**, which was brought in the wake of the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks.
- It makes NIA the only **truly federal agency in the country**, along the lines of the FBI in the United States, and more powerful than the CBI.
- NIA has powers to take **suo-motu cognisance** of terrorist activity in any part of India and to register a case, to enter any state without needing permission from its government, and to investigate and arrest people.

Key Amendments

- **Enhances the scope of Offences:** which are mentioned in the schedule to the Act, as it includes offences like human trafficking; offences related to counterfeit currency or bank notes; manufacture or sale of prohibited

arms; cyber-terrorism; offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908.

- **Enhances the jurisdiction of the NIA:** as the officers of the NIA will have the power to investigate scheduled **offences committed outside India**, subject to international treaties and domestic laws of other countries.
- **Additional Provisions for Special Courts:**
 - Now the central government may designate **Sessions Courts as Special Courts** for the trial of scheduled offences, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court under which the Sessions Court is functioning.
 - Further, state governments may also designate Sessions Courts as Special Courts for the trial of scheduled offences.

10.4. PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT (PMLA)

Why in News?

Government made the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002** law stricter via a recent amendment made to the Act through the Finance Act of 2019.

New amendment

- The **definition of “proceeds of crime”** has been widened which now includes properties and assets created through any criminal activity **even if it is not under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and it will now be considered as “relatable offence”**.
- India is also signatory to the **International Convention for Suppression of Financing of Terrorism (1999)**; the **United Nation Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (2000)**; and **United Nation Convention against Corruption (2003)**.

About Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) 2002 Act

- **Objective**
 - To prevent and control money laundering
 - To confiscate and seize the property obtained from the laundered money; and
 - To deal with any other issue connected with money laundering in India.
- **Defines offence of money laundering:** As whosoever directly or indirectly attempts to indulge or knowingly assists or knowingly is a party or is actually involved in any process or activity connected with the proceeds of crime and projecting it as untainted property shall be guilty of offence of money-laundering.

- **Prescribes obligation of banking companies, financial institutions and intermediaries:** For verification and maintenance of records of the identity of all its clients and also of all transactions and for furnishing information of such transactions in prescribed form to the Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND).
- **Cross border money Laundering:** It allows Central Government to enter into an agreement with Government of any country outside India for enforcing the provisions of the PMLA, exchange of information for the prevention of any offence under PMLA.
- **Special Courts:** They have been set-up in a number of States / UTs by the Central Government to conduct the trial of the offences of money laundering.
- It prescribes for formation of a three-member **Adjudicating Authority** for dealing with matters relating to attachment and confiscation of property under the Act.

10.5. SPECIAL PROTECTION GROUP (AMENDMENT) ACT

Why in news?

The **Special Protection Group (Amendment) Act, 2019** has been passed in both Houses of Parliament.

Key amendments

- It amends **Special Protections Group Act, 1988**. SPG was formed on the recommendations of the **Birbal Nath committee, 1985**.
- SPG will continue to provide security to the **Prime Minister** and members of his immediate family residing with him at **his official residence**.
- It will also provide security to any **former Prime Ministers** and his immediate family members, for a period of **five years** from the date on which he/she ceases to hold the office of Prime Minister.
- If the SPG security is withdrawn from a former Prime Minister, it will also be withdrawn from his immediate family members.

10.6. SECURITY ISSUES IN NORTH-EAST

10.6.1. BODO PEACE ACCORD

Why in news?

The **Bodo Peace Accord** as a tripartite agreement between the **Centre, Assam Government and the**

banned Assam-based insurgent group **National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB)** was signed on 27th January 2020, for bringing a lasting peace in Bodo-dominated areas in Assam.

- **Bodos** is a **tribal community** in Assam, who comprise of 5%-6% of the state's population.
- NDFB is an **ethnic insurgent organization** formed in 1986 demanding an **independent state for the Bodo ethnic group in Assam**, called **Bodo land**.

Highlights of Agreement

- **Villages dominated by Bodos** presently outside BTAD would be included and those with non-Bodo population would be excluded.
- Bodos living in hills would be conferred **Scheduled Hill Tribe status**.
- Bodo with Devnagri script would be associate **official language for entire Assam**.
- BTAD would now be called **Bodoland Territorial Region** and it will have more executive, administrative, legislative and financial powers.
- **Over 1500 armed cadres** will abjure violence and join mainstream.
- **A Special Development Package of Rs. 1500 crores** over three years is provided.



- Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)**
- Following a **peace agreement in 2003**, the **Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)** was formed which has 46-members (40 elected and 6 nominated by the governor).
 - It has legislative, administrative, executive and financial powers over 40 policy areas in the **Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD)**.
 - **BTAD** comprises four districts (**Kokrajhar, Baksa, Chirang and Udalguri**) of Assam.
 - It functions under the provision of the **Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India**.

10.6.2. NAGA PEACE TALKS

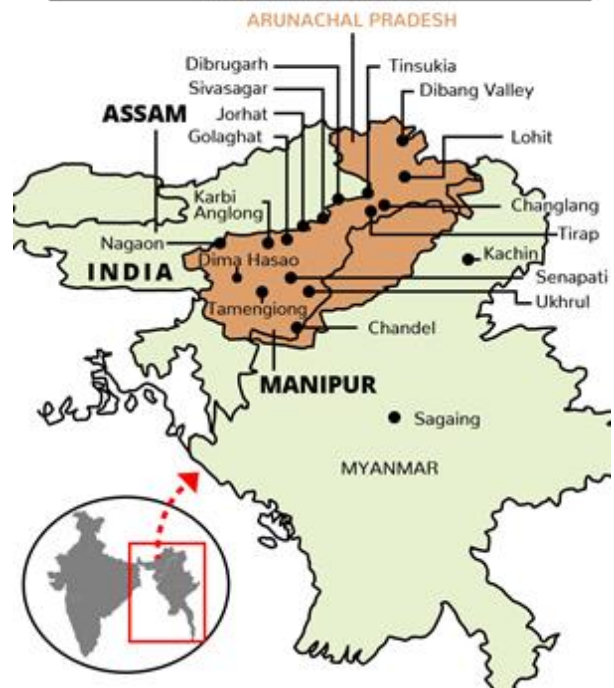
Why in News?

The October 31 deadline set by the Union government to conclude the **Naga peace talks** ended on a somewhat ambiguous note.

About Naga conflict

- **1946:** formation of **Naga National Council (NNC)**, under the leadership of **Angami Zapu Phizo**, which declared Nagaland an independent state on August 14, 1947.
- **1975:** A section of NNC leaders signed the **Shillong Accord**, under which this section of NNC and Naga Federal Government (NFG) agreed to give up arms. A group refused to accept the Shillong Accord, and **formed the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) in 1980**.
- **1988:** the NSCN split into NSCN (Isak-Muivah)/(IM) and NSCN (Khaplang)/(K).
- **2015:** NSCN-IM, gave up the idea of **Naga sovereignty** and **“agreed for a settlement within the Indian federation”**.
- **NSCN (IM) demand:** A **“Greater Nagalim”** comprising **“all contiguous Naga-inhabited areas”**, along with Nagaland. That included several districts of Assam, Arunachal and Manipur, as also a large tract of Myanmar.
- **NSCN (K)** is opposed to the talks, continues violent methods.
- The deadlock between the government and the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isak-Muivah) (NSCN (IM)) over a **separate Naga flag and constitution** were the issues holding up a final agreement.

'GREATER NAGALIM', AS THE NSCN (IM) ORIGINALLY SOUGHT



10.6.3. KUKI-NAGA MILITANTS SIGN PACT

Why in news?

Recently, for the first time, the **Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs)** and **Kuki National Organisation (KNO)** have signed a joint declaration to work together, as they used to separately negotiate political settlements with the Union of India.

Kuki Tribes

- They are **ethnic group that spread throughout** the North-eastern region of India, Northwest Burma and Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh.
- In Northeast India they are present in all the states **except Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Important festivals: Chavang Kut, Chapchar Kut.

Naga Tribes

- They are various individuals or ethnic groups associated to the North Eastern part of India and northwestern Myanmar. (Nagaland and Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in India.)
- **Prominent Naga tribes** are Angami, Ao, Chakhesang, Konyak.
- They are distinctly **famous for their ritual practice of headhunting**, once prevalent among tribal warriors in Nagaland.
- The Naga men's clothing is distinctive: conical red headgear is decorated with wild-boar canine teeth and white-black hornbill feathers.
- **Important festivals:** Sekrenyi' Moatsü or Moatsü Mong, Hornbill Festival.

About NNPGs and KNO

- NNPGs is an **umbrella body of seven Naga militant outfits** that have been holding talks with the Centre since 2017. The groups had announced in 2019 that it was ready to sign a deal with the Government of India.
 - NNPGs, comprises the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Unification), the NSCN (Reformation), the NSCN (Khango), the Naga National Council and two of its factions, and the Federal Government of Nagaland.
- The KNO is one of the two umbrella bodies of **17 Kuki militant outfits** that is also currently holding peace talks with the Government of India.
 - The demand of the group is a separate Territorial Council for Kukiland in Manipur.

10.6.4. OPERATION SUNRISE 2

Why in News?

The armies of **India and Myanmar** carried out **Operation Sunrise 2** in their respective border areas.

About Operation Sunrise 2

- The armies coordinated with each other to bust camps of militant outfits, including the **Kamtapur Liberation Organisation, the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang), the United Liberation Front of Assam (I) and the National Democratic Front of Boroland**.
- The **first phase of "Operation Sunrise"** was conducted in **February 2019** along the Indo-Myanmar border, during which a number of camps of **north-east-based militant groups were busted**.



10.7. NO FIRST USE DOCTRINE

Why in News?

Union Defence Minister recently said that India reserves the right to change its policy of 'No First Use' (NFU), based on future circumstances.

Background

- **"No First Use" is a pledge** taken by a country to not use nuclear weapons as a means of warfare unless a rival nation resorts to such an action first.
- **India adopted the "No First Use" policy after the Pokhran II tests in 1998**, asserting that its newly acquired arsenal will be used only as a deterrent.

No first use policy in other country

- **China was the first to pass resolution of No first use.**
- The United States has **never declared a NFU policy**.

- In 1982, Soviet Union pledged NFU policy. However, in 1993, Russia did away with the stance.
- Pakistan has made no such commitment.

- **National cyber coordination centre (NCCC):** To scan internet traffic coming into the country and provide real time situational awareness and alert various security agencies.

10.8. CYBER SECURITY

10.8.1. CRITICAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY IN INDIA

Why in News?

Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project was attacked by spyware identified as 'Dtrack'.

More about News

- 'Dtrack' is programmed to steal data and give the hacker or the 'threat actor' complete control over all the infected devices by exposing its credentials and passwords.
- This incident cast serious doubts on the India's readiness to protect its critical information infrastructure.

Critical Information Infrastructure (CII)

- It is defined as **"those facilities, systems or functions whose incapacity or destruction would cause a debilitating impact on national security, governance, economy and social well-being of a nation"**
- The critical sectors covered under CII are:
 - **Power & Energy** like Thermal Power, Hydroelectric Power, Nuclear Power etc.
 - **Banking, Financial Institutions & Insurance** like RBI, Stock Exchanges, Payment gateways etc.
 - **Information and Communication Technology** like Satellite Communication, broadcasting etc.
 - **Transportation** like Civil Aviation, Railways & Shipping
 - **E-governance** and **Strategic Public Enterprises**
- **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)** of National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) is the nodal agency the Information Technology (Amendment) Act 2008 for taking all measures including associated research and development for the protection of CIIs in India.
 - The Cyber Security Policy 2013 called for creation NCIIPC.

Other mechanisms set up for cyber security in India

- **Computer Emergency Response Team - India (CERT-IN):** It is responsible for all non-critical systems and for collecting reports on all cyber-attacks.

10.8.2. CYBER SECURITY POLICY

Why in news?

The 12th India Security Summit was organised by ASSOCHAM on the theme **"Towards New National Cyber Security Strategy"**.

About Cyber Security Policy 2013

The Policy proposed to:

- Set up different bodies to tackle various levels of threats, along with a national nodal agency to coordinate all cybersecurity matters.
- Create a **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)**
- Create a **workforce of around 500,000 trained in cyber security.**
- Provide fiscal benefits to businesses to adopt best security practices.
- Set up testing labs to regularly check safety of equipment being used in the country.
- Create a cyber ecosystem in the country, developing effective public-private partnerships and collaborative engagements through technical and operational cooperation
- Build indigenous security technologies through research.

10.8.3. INDIAN CYBER CRIME COORDINATION CENTRE

Why in news?

Union Ministry of Home affairs inaugurated Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and launched National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal.

About I4C

- The **scheme to set up Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) was approved in October 2018** for two years (2018-2020) to deal with all types of cybercrimes in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.
- This centre is **located in New Delhi.**
- **National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP)** is one of the components of the scheme:
 - Other components are: National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit, Platform for Joint Cybercrime Investigation Team, National Cybercrime Forensic Laboratory Ecosystem, National Cybercrime Training Centre, Cybercrime Ecosystem Management Unit, National Cyber Research and Innovation Centre.

- NCRP is a citizen-centric initiative that **will enable citizens to report cybercrimes online** through the portal with specific focus on crimes against women, children, particularly child pornography, child sex abuse material, online content pertaining to rapes and gang rapes, financial crime etc.
- **Regional Cyber Crime Coordination Centres** will be set up at the state/UT level and currently 15 States and UTs have given their consent to set it up.

10.8.4. RUSSIAN LED RESOLUTION ON CYBERCRIME TREATY

Why in news?

India voted in favour of a Russian led UN resolution to set up a separate convention on **cybercrime**.

About Russian led resolution on Cybercrime

- The Russian proposal entitled ‘**Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes**’ was passed by a committee in the United Nations General Assembly.
- The proposal creates a committee to convene in August 2020 in New York to establish a **new treaty through which nation-states can coordinate and share data to prevent cybercrime**.
- This Draft Convention proposes **going far beyond the Budapest Convention**, regarding cross-border access to data and limiting the ability of a signatory to refuse to provide access to requested data.
- **Also, U.S. and European officials and human rights groups view the resolution as** an opportunity for authoritarian states such as Russia and China to create global norms that endorse **state control of the Internet**.

About Budapest Convention on cybercrime

- The **Council of Europe’s (CoE) Cybercrime Convention** — also known as the **Budapest Convention** came into force in 2001, is the **only binding international instrument** that addresses Internet and computer crime by harmonizing national laws, improving legal authorities for investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations.
- It deals with issues such as infringements of copyright, computer-related fraud, child pornography and violations of network security.
- It aims to pursue a **common criminal policy**, especially by adopting appropriate legislation and fostering international police as well as judicial co-operation.

- The Convention has 56 members, including the US and the UK. **India is not yet a member**.
- India argued about **national sovereignty issues** with Budapest Convention and also said that it will not sign onto the treaty since it was **drafted without India’s participation**.

10.9. CHALLENGE OF ISIS IN INDIA

Why in news?

The Islamic State (IS) terror group has claimed for the first time that it has established a “**province**” in India, after a clash between militants and security forces in the Kashmir region killed a militant with alleged ties to the group.

More on news

- **Islamic state** previously known as the **Islamic state of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)**, is a terror group which envisages to establish an “**Islamic state based on Sharia law or Islamic Caliphate**”.
- IS's **Amaq News Agency** has announced its new province in India, that it called “**Wilayah of Hind**”, but did not elaborate on the branch's geographical remit.
- In the past, IS had vowed to convert India into **Khurasan State**, a historic name for a region that covers Afghanistan, Pakistan, parts of India, and other surrounding countries.

Related news

Operation Kayla Mueller: It is US operation that ended with **death of Islamic State chief** Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Khurais Oil field

- There was a drone attack on the oil processing plant at **Abqaiq** and the country’s second-largest oil field at **Khurais**, in the Eastern Province north of **Riyadh**.
- These facilities were owned Saudi Arabia’s state-owned oil company, and it has led to volatility in oil prices.

10.10. GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX (GTI), 2019

Why in news?

Recently the index was published by the Sydney-based **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)**.

About Global Terrorism Index

- The index provides a **comprehensive summary of the key global trends and patterns in terrorism since 2000**.
- It produces a composite score in order to provide an **ordinal ranking of countries on the impact of terrorism**.

- According to 2019 Index
 - Number of global deaths from terrorism fell 15.2% in 2018, even as the number of countries affected by extremist violence continued to grow.
 - Afghanistan, where the Taliban succeeded IS was ranked the **top most terror stricken** country, ahead of Iraq, Nigeria and Syria.
 - India is at **seventh place** in the list of countries most affected by terrorism.

10.11. GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 2019

Why in news?

Institute for Economics & Peace (Australian Think Tank) released 13th edition of Global Peace Index (GPI)-2019.

About GPI

- It ranks countries according to their level of peacefulness based on **three thematic domains** – the **level of societal safety and security, the extent of ongoing domestic and international conflict and the degree of militarisation**.
- The average level of global peacefulness improved for the first time in five years.
- **Iceland** remains the most peaceful country in the world, a position it has held since 2008.
- **Afghanistan is now the least peaceful country** in the world, replacing Syria (now the second least peaceful).
- **India's rank has moved down to 141** in GPI 2019 (from its previous position at 136 in 2018).

10.12. ANTI MARITIME PIRACY BILL, 2019

Why in news?

The bill was introduced in Lok Sabha by the **Ministry of External Affairs**.

About the Bill

- The Bill provides for prevention of maritime piracy and prosecution of persons for such piracy related crimes.
- It **defines piracy** as “any illegal act of violence, detention, or destruction committed against a ship, aircraft, person or property, for private purposes, by the crew or passengers of a private ship or aircraft”.
- It provides that Central Government, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, will **specify certain**

courts as Designated Courts for speedy trial of offences of piracy.

Maritime Piracy and related International treaties

- **Piracy is defined in Article 101 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** as any criminal acts of violence, detention, or depredation, committed for private ends by the crew or the passenger of a private ship or aircraft that is directed on the high seas against another ship, aircraft or against persons or property on board a vessel or aircraft.
- **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** has adopted some International Conventions for its member countries to implement.
 - **Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA Convention)**, to prohibit and punish behaviours which may threaten the safety of maritime navigation.
 - **International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)**, sets **minimum safety standards** in the construction, equipment and operation of merchant ships.
- **International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code)** is an amendment to the SOLAS Convention and prescribes responsibilities to governments, shipping companies, shipboard personnel, and port/facility personnel to detect security threats.
- In addition, IMO assists governments lacking the technical knowledge and resources needed to operate a shipping industry safely and efficiently through the **Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) and the Djibouti Code of Conduct**.

Related news

Operation Sankalp

- Indian Navy launched **Operation Sankalp** in the **Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman** to reassure Indian flagged vessels transiting through strategic shipping lane between **Strait of Hormuz, Persian/ Arabian Gulf Region** are safe following the recent maritime incidents in the region.
- **INS Chennai and INS Sunayna** have been deployed in the region to undertake maritime security operations. In addition, aerial surveillance in the area is also being done by Indian Navy aircraft.



Cape Town Agreement

India has shown interest to ratify Cape Town Agreement (CTA) adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for safety of fishing vessels.

Details

- The Cape Town Agreement was adopted by the IMO in 2012 to **help combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing**.
- The treaty consists of minimum safety measures for fishing vessels that mirror the **International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)—an internationally binding treaty on safety for merchant vessels** that entered into force in 1980.

TYPES OF INTERPOL NOTICES

 RED NOTICE: To seek the location and arrest of wanted persons with a view to extradition or similar lawful action.	 YELLOW NOTICE: To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.
 BLUE NOTICE: To collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a crime.	 BLACK NOTICE: To seek information on unidentified bodies.
 GREEN NOTICE: To provide warning and intelligence about persons who have committed criminal offences & are likely to repeat these crimes in other countries.	 ORANGE NOTICE: To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious & imminent threat to public safety.
 INTERPOL-UN SECURITY COUNCIL SPECIAL NOTICE: Issued for groups & individuals who are the targets of UN Security Council sanctions committees.	 PURPLE NOTICE: To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.

10.13. INTERPOL

Why in news?

The Interpol issued a **Blue Corner** notice to help locate fugitive self-styled godman Nithyananda, who fled India last year amid allegations of rape and sexual abuse.

About Interpol

- **International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol)** is an inter-governmental organization, having 194 member countries.
- It facilitates **worldwide police cooperation and crime control**.
- **Headquartered in Lyon, France**, it was founded in 1923 as the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC).
- It provides investigative support, expertise, and training to law enforcement worldwide in battling three major areas of transnational crime that is terrorism, cybercrime, and organized crime.
- **India is a member.**
 - The **CBI is the nodal authority** that executes and handles the issuance of all Interpol Notices in India. There are liaison officers in every state police force as well.

10.14. NEW AND EMERGING STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGIES DIVISION

Why in News?

Ministry of External Affairs has announced the setting up of a new division on **New and Emerging Strategic Technologies (NEST)**.

About NEST

- It will act as the **nodal division** within the ministry for issues pertaining to new and emerging technologies.
- **Objectives:**
 - **Assessing foreign policy and international legal implications** of emerging technology and technology-based resources.
 - **Facilitating negotiations** to safeguard Indian interests at multilateral forum like the United Nations or the G20.
 - **Creation of HR capacity** within the ministry for technological diplomacy work.
 - **Collaboration** with foreign partners in the field of 5G and artificial intelligence.

11. MISCELLANEOUS

11.1. UNSC COMMITTEE 1267

Why in news?

Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar was listed as a designated global terrorist by the **UN Security Council 1267 Committee** in May, 2019.

UNSC Committee 1267

- It was established in 1999, by Resolution 1267, which imposed a **limited air embargo and asset freeze on the Taliban**. Over time, **measures became a targeted asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo** against **designated individuals and entities**.
- In 2011, after the adoption of **resolution 1988**, the Committee split into two.
 - The 1267 Committee was henceforth known as the **Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee**, mandated to oversee implementation of the measures against individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida.
 - A separate Committee was established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) to oversee implementation of the measures against individuals and entities associated with the Taliban.

11.2. RAISINA DIALOGUE 2020

Why in news?

The fifth edition of the Raisina dialogue 2020 was held recently in New Delhi.

Details

- It is a **multilateral conference** committed to **addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community**, held annually in New Delhi since 2016. It is designed on the lines of Singapore's **Shangri-La Dialogue**.
- The Dialogue is **structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion**, involving heads of state, cabinet ministers and local government officials, as well as major private sector executives, members of the media and academics.
- The conference is **hosted by** the Observer Research Foundation in collaboration with the Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs.

11.3. HONG KONG PROTESTS

Why in news?

Hong Kong has seen months of protests sparked by a **controversial plan to allow extraditions to mainland China**.

Details

- The **existing extradition law states that it does not apply** to "the Central People's Government or the government of any other part of the People's Republic of China".
- But the proposed changes would have allowed for the Hong Kong government to consider requests from any country for extradition of criminal suspects, even countries with which it doesn't have an extradition treaty and including mainland China, Taiwan and Macau.
- These protests have brought into focus the **"one country, two systems"** deal under which Hong Kong is governed.
- When **Hong Kong was handed over to China in 1997** by Britain, both sides agreed that the city would remain a semi-autonomous region under the **Basic Law**, its mini-Constitution, for 50 years.
- The Basic Law provides people in **Hong Kong more political freedoms** than their counterparts in mainland China.
- **Recently, US President signed Hong Kong law (Human Rights and Democracy Act)** that mandates an annual review to check if Hong Kong has enough autonomy to justify its special status with the US.

11.4. GLOBAL MIGRATION REPORT 2020

Why in news?

'**Global Migration Report 2020**' was published by the **International Organisation for Migration**.

Findings of the report

- In 2019 international migrants are estimated at 270 million where more than half of all international migrants (141 million) live in Europe and North America.
- **Top destination** remains the **United States** at nearly 51 million.
- An estimated **52 per cent are male** and nearly two-thirds of all migrants around 164 million are looking for work.

- **India** continued to be the **largest country of origin** of international migrants (17.5 million) followed by **Mexico** and China.
- International remittances increased to \$689 billion in 2018. **The top three remittance recipients** were India (\$78.6 billion), followed by and Mexico. **The United States remained the top remittance-sending country** followed by the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

International Organisation for Migration

- The IOM is an **intergovernmental organization** that provides services and advice concerning migration to governments and migrants, including internally displaced persons, refugees, and migrant workers.
- It was **established in 1951**, and in 2016, became a related organization of the United Nations.
- It is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- IOM works in the **four broad areas of migration management**:
 - Migration and development
 - Facilitating migration
 - Regulating migration
 - Forced migration.
- IOM has **173 members and 8 observers**. India is also member country.

Related news: Global Refugee Forum (GRF)

- It aims to create new ideas, as well as long-term promises, **to help refugees and the communities** that support them.
- The first Global Refugee Forum took place in Geneva, Switzerland which was jointly organised by **Uganda, Japan, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, UNDP, OECD and the World Bank**.

Related information: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) released 'The International Migrant Stock 2019' report.

11.5. AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN INDIA AND BRAZIL

Why in news?

The Union Cabinet has recently given its approval for signing the Agreement on Social Security (SSA) **between India and Brazil**. It is first such agreement between the BRICS countries.

Details

- SSA is a **bilateral agreement between India and a foreign country** designed to **protect the interests of Indian professionals/skilled workers** working abroad for short durations and enhance the competitiveness of Indian companies by providing the **following benefits**:
 - **Detachment:** It exempts Indian worker from making a social security contribution in that foreign country. This exemption is provided only if Indian worker is covered under social security system of India and continues to pay his/her contribution during the period of overseas contract.
 - **Exportability:** It enables the Indian worker to remit his accumulated social security contribution made in a foreign country, in case of relocation to India/third country.
 - **Totalization:** An SSA allows aggregating residency periods of social security contribution made by the Indian worker/professional in India and the foreign country to qualify for retirement benefits.
- As on date, **India has signed and operationalized Social Security Agreements (SSAs) with 18 countries** such as Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark etc.

Related news: India- Brazil Action Plan

- It was signed on recent Brazilian President's visit to India.
- **Action Plan covers 6 major areas:** political & strategic coordination; trade, investments, agriculture, civil aviation & energy; science, technology, space, environment, technical cooperation & health; defence & security; culture & education; consular issues, social security & legal cooperation.
 - **India-Brazil Joint Commission for political, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation** will be main forum for monitoring implementation of the Action Plan.
- Nations also set **target of \$15 billion** for bilateral trade by 2022, up from currently about \$8 billion.

11.6. MILITARY EXERCISES IN NEWS

Name of the Exercise	About
Indo–Thai CORPAT	Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy .
SITMEX 2019	Maritime exercise amongst Singapore, Thailand and India .
MAITREE-2019	Joint military exercise between India and Thailand .
Yudh Abhyas 2019	Joint military exercise between Indian and US armies .
Tiger Triumph	First ever tri service joint exercise between India and the United States
Malabar 2019	Maritime exercise between India, Japan and the United States

Counter-Terrorism Exercise (CT-TTX)	Table-Top	First counter-terrorism exercise for “Quad” countries (U.S., India, Japan and Australia)
TSENTR 2019		Part of the Russian Armed Forces' annual training cycle. Apart from host Russia, military contingents from China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan will take part.
Nomadic Elephant		India-Mongolian joint military training exercise
Exercise SHAKTI		Biennial exercise between armies of India and France
Exercise Garuda-VI		Exercise between Indian and French Air Force
Exercise Surya Kiran- XIV		Joint military exercise between India- Nepal
Exercise Mitra Shakti-VII		Joint military exercise between India-Sri Lanka
SLINEX 2019		Maritime exercise between India and Sri Lanka
Exercise SAMPRITI-IX		Military exercise between India and Bangladesh
Exercise Za'ir-Al-Bahr		Joint maritime exercise between the navies of India and Qatar .
Dustlik-2019		First ever joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan .
Hand in Hand		Military exercise between India and China
Indra		Joint Tri Services Exercise between India and Russia .
Exercise Indradhanush - V		Exercise between Indian Air Force and Royal Air Force of United Kingdom
Ajeya Warrior-2020		Joint Military Exercise between India and United Kingdom
IndSpaceEx		India's first-ever simulated space warfare exercise
MILAN 2020		Multilateral naval exercise hosted by Indian navy
Operation Him Vijaya		Conducted by Indian army to test offensive capabilities against China in Arunachal Pradesh.

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