

AFRICA: PHYSICAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Africa's role in international relations is multifaceted and rapidly evolving. It is a continent of immense importance due to its strategic resources, growing population, and increasing diplomatic weight, but it is also one that faces significant internal and external challenges that impact its ability to act as a unified and influential force.

Importance of Africa in International Relations

1. Strategic Resources:

- **Mineral Wealth** -cobalt, platinum, diamonds, gold, and uranium. and With the global push for renewable energy and electric vehicles, demand for minerals like cobalt, Katanga plateau.
- **Oil and Gas:** Many African nations are significant oil and gas producers, making them vital to global energy security.
- **Arable Land:** Africa possesses a large percentage of the world's uncultivated arable land, positioning it as a key region for future global food security.

2. Demographics:

Population Growth: Africa has the fastest-growing and youngest population in the world. By 2050, it is projected that one in four people globally will be African. This demographic dividend presents a huge potential for a growing workforce, a large consumer market, and innovation.

youthful Workforce: The continent's young median age offers a significant labor pool that could drive economic growth and innovation if properly educated and employed

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Importance of Africa in International Relations

1. Strategic Resources:

- **Mineral Wealth:** Africa holds a vast amount of the world's critical minerals, including cobalt, platinum, diamonds, gold, and uranium. With the global push for renewable energy and electric vehicles, demand for minerals like cobalt, of which the DRC holds over 70% of the world's reserves, has made the continent a critical player in global supply chains.
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- **Youthful Workforce:** The continent's young median age offers a significant labor pool that could drive economic growth and innovation if properly educated and employed.

3. Geopolitical and Diplomatic Influence:

- **Multipolar World:** As the world becomes more multipolar, African nations are leveraging the competition between major powers (like the US, China, and Russia) to secure more favorable trade agreements and investments.
- **Regional and Continental Bodies:** The African Union (AU) is increasingly assertive in promoting "African solutions to African problems," particularly in peace and security. The recent admission of the AU as a permanent member of the G20 further amplifies the continent's voice on the global stage.
- **Voting Bloc:** As a large bloc of countries in international organizations like the United Nations, African nations can exert significant influence in multilateral negotiations, particularly on issues like climate change and trade

Issues and Challenges in International Relations:

1. Internal Conflicts and Instability:

- **Political Instability:** Many African countries continue to grapple with political instability, civil wars, and humanitarian crises. This diverts resources from development and makes it difficult to present a united front in international forums.
- **Governance and Corruption:** Issues of corruption, weak governance, and a lack of transparency hinder effective foreign policy and deter foreign investment.

2. Economic Vulnerabilities:

- **Debt and Aid Dependency:** While some African nations are moving away from traditional aid models, many are still burdened by high levels of debt and a dependency on external financial assistance. This limits their autonomy and can give foreign powers leverage in diplomatic negotiations.
- **Neocolonialism:** Many African countries feel that they are still subject to neocolonial relationships, where they export raw materials and import finished goods, hindering their industrialization and perpetuating an unequal economic relationship.
- **Lack of Intra-African Trade:** Despite initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), trade between African countries remains relatively low, limiting the continent's collective economic power.

3. Climate Change:

- **Disproportionate Impact:** Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change, experiencing severe droughts, floods, and desertification, despite contributing the least to global emissions.
- **Financial Burden:** The costs of climate adaptation and mitigation place a significant financial burden on African economies, diverting resources from other development priorities.

4. External Influences and Competition:

- **Great Power Competition:** Africa is a key arena for the geopolitical rivalry between the US, China, and other powers. This competition can be an opportunity for African nations to secure better deals, but it also risks deepening internal divisions and creating new dependencies.
- **Unequal Representation:** Despite the progress of the AU in the G20, Africa's representation in other global governance institutions, such as the UN Security Council and international financial institutions, remains limited, leaving the continent's interests often marginalized.

AFRICA PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

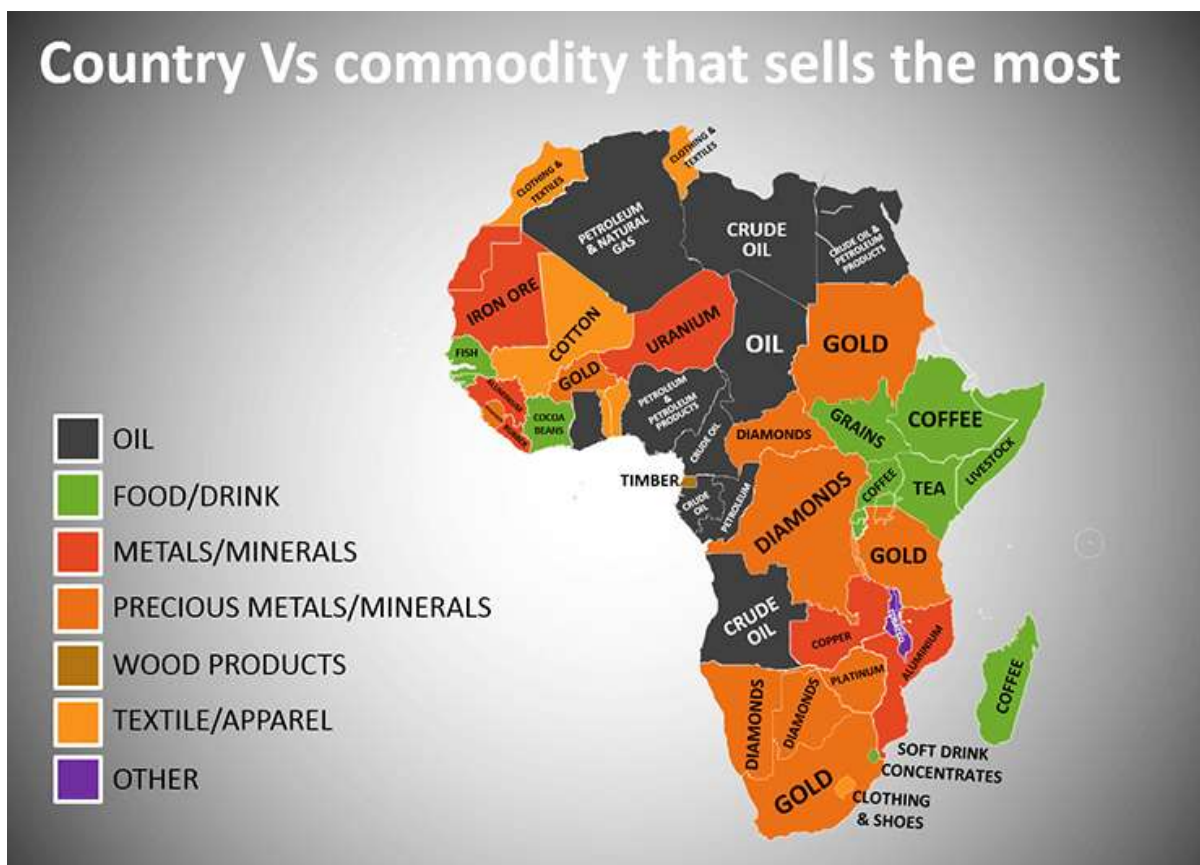
- world's second-largest continent in both land area and population, following Asia
- widely considered the "cradle of humankind" due to the discovery of some of the earliest human fossils there.
- **Origin of Humans:** Africa is considered the birthplace of humanity, with the oldest known skeletal remains of modern humans found in East Africa
 - nine times the size of India
 - Africa accounts for about 18% of the world's [human population](#).
 - Called As Dark Continent ; Mother Continent and also called as Future Continent
- **Religion :** Christianity 49 % and Islam 42 %, rest other traditional faiths

FACTS:

- making up about 20% of Earth's total land area.
 - It has the youngest population in the world, with over 50% of Africans under the age of 20
 - Africa is the only continent that extends from the northern temperate zone to the southern temperate zone.
 - The only continent which is crossed by Tropic of Cancer, Equator and Tropic of Capricorn. So when it is winter in South Africa, it is summer in the North of Africa
 - It is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and the Red Sea and Indian Ocean to the east.
 - Water Bodies: Africa is home to the world's longest river, the Nile, and the second-largest freshwater lake by area, Lake Victoria. The Congo River is the world's deepest
- The Sahara Desert, the world's largest hot desert, dominates a large part of northern Africa.

Highest and Lowest point :

- The continent's highest peak is Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania
- Lowest Point: Lake Assal in Djibouti- hypersaline crater lake lies at an elevation of -155 meters (-509 feet) below sea level.



Resources :

- **30 % Global Mineral Reserve: World largest producers of Gold, Diamond, Platinum, Chromium, Cobalt .**
- **World's major gold reserves are found in the African continent**
- **South Africa, Central African Republic, and Ghana are leading producers of gold.**
- **Diamond mines are found in Botswana, Zaire, and South Africa (largest)**
- **Africa is the leading exporter of diamonds**
- **12 % World Oil and 8 % Natural Gas**
- **Oil : Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Angola and Nigeria**
- **2050: World Half Populations**
- **70 % Population employed in Agriculture sector.**

- Africa Main Occupation is farming ie Shifting and Subsistence Farming is practised .
- Africa exports raw materials and import finished goods .
- Industrial Development is low due to shortage of Iron Ore and Coal .
- Lack of Technical knowledge, shortage of money /investment
- Lack of Market within the countries and improper roads (Inadequate network of transport due to vast desert and thick forest) and low standard of living.
- Most Africa live in tribal communities and speak different language, about 2000. So Africa is land of Regional dialect And also has a wide variety of sign languages, many of which are language isolates.
- Swahili is most commonly spoken language.
- Africa English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish are the colonial languages spoken in Africa
- Greenwich Meridian passes through the western part of Africa. It is the only continent where the 0° latitude meets the 0° longitudes. These lines meet at the Gulf of Guinea. ie . Null Island .

AFRICA :

- Fully Recognized Countries : 54
- Largest country by Area: Algeria
- Largest Country by Population : Nigeria
- Smallest Country in Africa: Seychelles
- Rich Countries : Equatorial Guinea, Seychelles, Mauritius, Gabon, Botswana , Algeria
- Poor Countries : Somalia, Central African Republic, DR Congo , Burundi

REGIONAL DIVISIONS OF AFRICA

The physiographic divisions of Africa are into the following six regions:

- Northern Africa
- Northeast Africa
- Eastern Africa
- Central Africa
- Southern Africa
- Western Africa



NORTHERN AFRICA

It extends from Algeria in the north, through, the Canary Islands, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Ceuta, Egypt, Libya, Madeira, Melilla, Morocco, Sudan, and Tunisia, It reaches up to Western Sahara.



See in Map : Iberian Peninsula, Strait of Gibraltar, Ceuta Spain, Gibraltar Island UK, Atlas Mountains, Canary Islands of Spain, Western Sahara

Northeast Africa

It is also called the horn of Africa which extends several hundred kilometers into the Arabian Sea and lies along the southern side of the Gulf of Aden. It contains countries such as Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

EASTERN AFRICA

The extensive area stretches from the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa to Mozambique including Burundi, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mayotte, Mozambique, Réunion, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

CENTRAL AFRICA

It is a large landmass situated exactly in the middle of the continent covering Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, São Tomé, and Príncipe.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

It is the southernmost part of the continent and covers the countries such as Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland.



WESTERN AFRICA

It is situated roughly at 100° E longitude covering countries like Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Saint Helena, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo

AFRICA PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY



Major Physical Divisions of Africa

The major physical divisions of African continent are:

- The Plateau : Ethiopian Plateau, Tibesti Plateau, and the Abyssinia Plateau
- The Fold Mountains: The Atlas mountains, The Drakensberg and the Great Karoo
- Volcanic mountain: Mount Kilimanjaro
- The Rift Valley: Great rift valley
- Lakes: Lake Victoria Tanganyika, Nyasa or Malawi, and Kivu.
- Deserts: Sahara desert and Kalahari
- Rivers: the Nile, the Congo, the Niger, the Zambezi, Zaire and the Orange
- Islands: Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles (Indian Ocean) the Sao Tome and Malabo islands (the Atlantic Ocean)
- The types of vegetation found in the African continent are the equatorial forests, desert vegetation, Savanna grasslands, Mediterranean vegetation, and temperate grasslands

Important Straits

Name	Separates	Connects
Strait of Gibraltar	Europe from Africa	Mediterranean Sea with Atlantic Ocean.
Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb	Djibouti (Africa) from Yemen (Asia)	Red Sea with Gulf of Aden.
Coasts of Africa	Countries	
Grain Coast	Sierra Leone and Liberia	
Ivory Coast	Ivory Coast	
Gold Coast	Ghana	
Slave Coast	Togo, Benin and Nigeria.	

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South to North Lakes of Africa:

Lake Kariba : located on the Zambezi River in Zambia; Man Made Lake; Largest producer of hydroelectricity in Africa.

Lake Nyasa (Lake Malawi) : Rift valley lake, which lies along the Malawi, Mozambique, and Tanzania

Lake Tanganyika : Rift valley lake ; World's second deepest lake (1435 m) after Ozero, Baikal and also the second largest lake of Africa . Lake Tanganyika is between Congo, Zambia, Burundi and Tanzania and It is the worlds longest freshwater lake.

Lake Edward	Located between Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo.
Lake Victoria Area : 68,880 sq. km. Max. depth : 80 m.	Largest lake of Africa which is located between Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. Source of White Nile River. It does not lie in the rift valley. A large lake through which equator pass. World's third largest lake after Caspian Sea and Lake Superior. It contains numerous islands coral reefs.
Lake Turkana (Lake Rudolf)	Rift valley lake of Kenya
Lake Tana	Lake situated in the Ethiopian highlands. Source of Blue Nile River.
Lake Nasser	Lake lies on the River Nile. Man-made lake, which is located between Egypt and Sudan.
Lake Chad	Largest lake (shallow fresh water lake) of Sahara in Chad. Actually an example of deflation hollow which is formed due to wind erosion. A lake of inland drainage where the Chari River drains.
Lake Volta	One of the largest man-made lakes on the River Volta in Ghana
Lake Assal	Located in Djibouti. The lowest point in Africa.

Major Mountain Ranges

Atlas Mountains (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia): A vast mountain range stretching across northwestern Africa. Highest peak- Jbel Toubkal (4165m)

Drakensberg Mountains (South Africa, Lesotho): "Dragon Mountains" in Afrikaans.

Rwenzori Mountains (Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo): Known as the "Mountains of the Moon," this range is famous for its unique alpine flora, glaciers, and for being one of the sources of the Nile River.

Ethiopian Highlands (Ethiopia): High plateau of volcanic origin; Often called the "Roof of Africa" due to their immense size and elevation and source of Blue Nile

Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania): The highest mountain in Africa and the highest free-standing mountain in the world. Its highest point is Uhuru Peak.

Ahaggar Massif : Ahaggar Mountains –

- The Ahaggar Mountains, also known as the Hoggar, is a highland region in central Sahara, or southern Algeria near the Tropic of Cancer. They are located about 1,500 km south of the capital, Algiers. Mount Tahat is the highest peak (2,918 m). It has a volcanic formation

Bomi and Nibas hills | The main hills of Liberia, known for Iron ore deposits.

• Mount Kenya (Kenya): The second-highest mountain in Africa. It is an extinct volcano with a number of peaks, including Batian and Nelion.

• Mount Stanley (Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo): The highest peak of the Rwenzori Mountains and the third-highest mountain in Africa. Its highest point is Margherita Peak.

Toubkal (Morocco): The highest peak in the Atlas Mountains and the highest mountain in North Africa.

Mount Cameroon (Cameroon): An active volcano and the highest point in West Africa.

Sahara desert	Lies between 150 to 300 N latitudes. The largest stretch of desert, which is 5150 km from east to west and at least 1610 km in area. Erg: Sandy desert of Sahara (9.1 sq. km) is undulating plain of sand, produced by wind deposition. Hamada: Rocky desert of Sahara is bare rock surface formed by deflation. Cities located in the desert fringe are Zinder (Niger), Timbuktu (Mali), Kano (Nigeria), and Kumasi (Ghana).
Libyan desert	Vast arid land of north-east of Africa in Libya. Serir: Stony desert of Libya is covered with boulders, angular pebbles and gravels which have been produced by high diurnal temperature range.
Arabian desert	Arid region of North-East Egypt.
Nubian desert	It is an extension of Sahara which occupies a third of the Sudan's territory in the north.
Great Karoo: Semi-desert region	South Africa location
Namib desert	A narrow, dune-covered desert belt, runs 1,600 km along the entire Atlantic Sea board of Namibia.
Kalahari desert	Semi desert region of Botswana lies to the east of Namib desert. Home of one of the Africa's oldest races, the Kalahari Bushmen. parts of Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Angola, and Zimbabwe. Famous for Dimond mining

Tribes and Desert

- Sahara Desert– Largest hot desert – subtropical HP zone, Tuareg tribes
- Namib desert -Off-shore trade wind + cold Benguella current, sandy desert, Hottentots tribes
- Kalahari Desert -Rain-shadow effect, *stony-rocky desert*. Bushmen tribe (the oldest surviving tribal group of Africa)
- Nubian desert -Separated by Libyan desert by Nile river *rocky desert*
- Zulu, South Africa.
- Xhosa, South Africa
- Karo, Ethiopia.
- Hamar, Ethiopia
- Yoruba, Nigeria.
- Himba, Namibia.
- San Bushmen, Kenya
- Samburu, Kenya
- Maasai, Kenya, and Tanzania.

Note The Maasai people, a semi-nomadic group in Kenya and Tanzania, have a deep cultural and practical relationship with their cattle. Part of Cultural Significance they Harvesting Blood Without Killing Cow.

The Katanga Plateau:

- geographical and economic region located in the southeastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
- The Katanga Plateau has a tropical wet-and-dry climate
- The seasonal rainfall and fertile soils make the plateau an important area for farming and ranching.
- one of the most mineral-rich regions in the world. It is the heart of the Central African Copperbelt **known for its vast deposits of:**

- Copper
- Cobalt
- Uranium
- Zinc
- Tin
- Gold
- Silver
- Manganese

RIVER :

1 Nile River

- The River is flowing north to empty into the Mediterranean sea
- 6,600 kilometers
- Longest river of the World drain towards The Mediterranean Sea.
- The Nile River flows through eastern Africa from south to north. It starts in the rivers that flow into Lake Victoria.
- White Nile Source: Country: Uganda; "Victoria Nile" at Jinja, Uganda, where it flows out of Lake Victoria(present-day Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya).
- Blue Nile Source: Country: Ethiopia at Lake Tana in the Ethiopian Highlands
- The Nile River basin spans 11 countries in northeastern Africa
- Flows generally northwards through multiple countries, including Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan, and Egypt. The White and Blue Niles meet in Khartoum, Sudan, to form the main Nile.

Dams on Nile:

- The Nalubaale Dam (formerly Owen Falls Dam) in Uganda, which controls the outflow of the White Nile from Lake Victoria
- Sennar Dam on Blue Nile in Sudan
- Aswan Dam on Nile in Egypt.

2 Congo River (Largest by Volume)

- or Zaire River
- Location central Africa
- Origin: Katanga Plateau
- is the second-longest river in Africa
- Flows in a large counter-clockwise arc, crossing the equator twice, through the Congo Rainforest. Its basin covers a significant portion of Central Africa
- drains towards Atlantic Ocean
- Stanley Fall and Livingstone Fall are on it.
- Pigmy tribes
- Petroleum reserve at the mouth

3 Niger River

- West Africa
- third longest river in Africa
- Source : The Guinea Highlands.
- Flows in a crescent shape, initially away from the coast, into the Sahara Desert before turning sharply southeast and flowing through Mali, Niger, and Nigeria. It forms a massive delta in Nigeria.
- Drains in The Gulf of Guinea (part of the Atlantic Ocean)

4 Zambezi River

- Location : South-Central Africa
- Source : Zambia.
- Source: Katanga Plateau and Outflow Indian Ocean , Mozambique Channal.
- Victoria Falls and Lake Kariba and Kariba Dam
- Flows eastwards through Zambia, Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. It is famous for the Victoria Falls.
- Drain : The Indian Ocean.

Limpopo River

- Outflow in Indian Ocean
- It Cuts Tropic of Capricorn
- Separates South Africa from Botswana and Zimbabwe

Orange River

- Source Drakensberg Mountains at Lesoto
- Outflow in Atlantic Ocean
- Aughrabes Fall
- Natural Boundary between Namibia and South Africa

STRATEGIC REGIONS OF AFRICA

Strategic Region in News :

Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)



1 .Maghreb region:

- Key Region of North Africa
- Countries: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania
- Egypt not Part of this and Egypt is part of Middle East
- This Region also consist disputed regions: Western Sahara (mostly controlled by Morocco) Melilla and Ceuta (both controlled by Spain and claimed by Morocco)



2 Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic SADR : Partially recognized state located in Maghreb region and Western Sahara : Territory claimed by both Morocco and SADR



- The Western Sahara, given its name in 1975 by the [UN](#), is the last African colonial state yet to achieve its independence. See Border three Countries
- [Sovereignty](#) over Western Sahara is contested between [Morocco](#) and the Polisario Front and its legal status remains unresolved. The United Nations considers it to be a "[non-self-governing territory](#)".
- Polisario Front is a rebel [Sahrawi nationalist liberation movement](#) claiming [Western Sahara](#).
- [Morocco](#) has been repeatedly criticized for its actions in Western Sahara by international human rights organizations including: Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch , Reporters without Borders
- In 2020; the [United States](#) announced that it would recognize full Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara in exchange for [Morocco establishing relations with Israel](#)
- In 2023 Israel also recognized Moroccan sovereignty in this territory.

HORN OF AFRICA

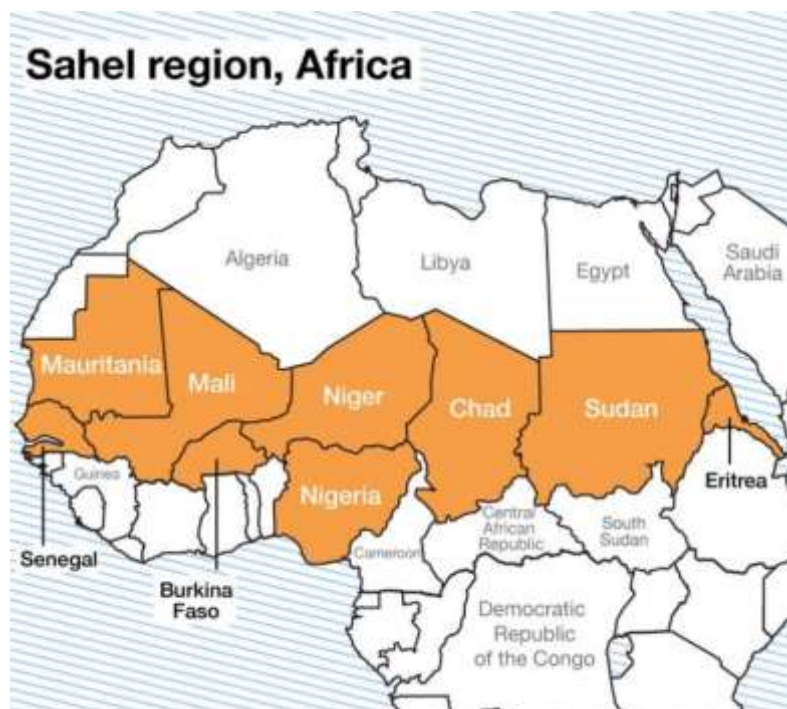


Horn of Africa Region :

- Eastern most extension of Africa Continent
- Includes Only Four Countries: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia.
- Area Includes: Ethiopian Highlands, Ogaden Desert , Eritrean and Somali Coast .

4 Sahel Region

- between the Sahara Desert to the north and Tropical Savanna to the south.
- This region is news for deep rooted challenges so to develop and maintain peace in the Region United Nations has come up with a unique support plan targeting 10 countries to scale up efforts to accelerate prosperity and sustainable peace in the region.
- Countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.



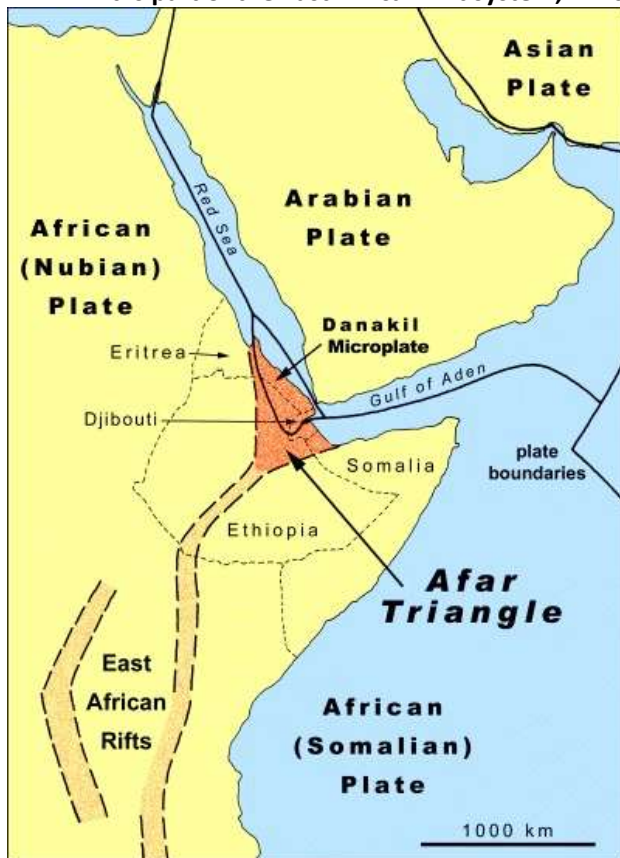
- Tigray Region and Ogaden Region: Ethiopia
- Darfur, Sudan
- Chagos Island dispute between UK and Mauritius : The African Union urged the United Kingdom to comply with a UN resolution calling for it to withdraw from the Chagos Islands. The UK does not recognise Mauritius' sovereignty claim over the Chagos Archipelago.
- Afar triangle
- Somaliland : Unrecognised country in Horn of Africa Region
- Cabo Delgado region of Mozambique
- Kabylie Region Algeria
- Biafra Region and Niger Delta : Nigeria
- Cabinda Region : Angola : People of Cabinda sought independence from Angola government leading ongoing political unrest and armed conflict in the region

News : Yaounde Declaration

- Health ministers from 11 African nations grappling with the heaviest malaria burdens have recently signed the Yaounde Declaration.
- Cameroon (capital).
- Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania.
- These countries collectively account for over 70% of the global malaria burden.

NEWS: Africa Afar Triangle

- Recent geological findings suggest that [Africa's Afar Triangle](#) could be the birthplace of a new ocean in 5 to 10 million years.
- Afar Triangle, nestled in the [Horn of Africa](#), is a geological depression where three [tectonic plates](#), the Nubian, Somali, and Arabian plates converge
- It is part of the East African Rift system, which extends from the Afar region down through eastern Africa.



AFRICA ISSUES DESPITE VAST NATURAL RESOURCES

- Historical Colonial Exploitation by European Powers
 - Legacies of Colonialism
 - Lack of Democracy and Political Unrest,
 - Lack of access to foreign capital
 - Limited access to Healthcare and Poor water quality issue
 - Still Lowest Income region in the World
 - Economic Unrest and Inadequate Infrastructure
 - Illiteracy, and Unemployment
-
- Africa is the lowest income region in the world.
 - African countries suffers from dependency syndrome. Most African states are incapable of surviving independently.
 - include [corrupt governments](#) that have often committed serious [human rights violations](#), failed [central planning](#), high levels of [illiteracy](#), low self-esteem, lack of access to foreign capital, legacies of colonialism, the [slave](#) trade,
 - Even after colonialization and secession of African countries, the countries are yet faced with what is known as neocolonialism.
 - Neo-colonialism is the control or domination by a powerful country over weaker ones, especially former colonies, by the use of economic pressure, political suppression and cultural dominance
 - Lack of transparent rules and Inefficient investment
 - Nature-based conflicts, including violent conflict, civil wars and secessionist movements, have been commonplace in Africa

- There is no African country without crises, ranging from terrorism, political crises, etc. the conflict in Tigray region of Ethiopia has led the country into famine
- Corruption and crime is a term and practice identifiable and common to African countries.
- Factors such as; limited access to health care, health care system with little or no investment facilities, natural disaster, poor water quality, poor waste management, etc.
- Unemployment is the phenomenon of joblessness in an economy.
- Tropical humid climate makes it prone to health epidemics such as Malaria, Ebola etc.
- More than 85% of individuals in Africa use traditional medicine as an alternative to often expensive allopathic medical health care and costly pharmaceutical products
- Lack of infrastructure for health, education, skilling and transport hinder the development of industries.
 - Despite this low concentration of wealth, recent economic expansion and the large and young population make Africa an important economic market in the broader global context.



Source: Wikipedia Commons

- West Africa Region witnessing various military coup or military interventions
- Coup: illegal and overt attempt by the military - or by other civilian officials - to unseat sitting leaders
- Main Reason For Coup: Poverty Issues, Corruption, Crime, Poor Economic Performance , Unemployment ;Human Right Violations etc
- Many Region in Africa desire for Greater Autonomy
- Conflicts in Africa basically driven by Socio -Economic disparities, resource exploitation and history of marginalization and neglect .
- Political Instability and Economic Crisis, Severe Poverty and High cost of living
- Competition for Resources
- Ethnic Tensions
- Large scale displacement of Population
- Humanitarian crisis and Human Rights Abuses
- Political Dynamics is changing in the Region very fast
- Ex : Guinea , Burkina Faso, Mali, Chad, Niger, Gabon
- Mali expelled French Troops stationed in the country so long.
- The Sahel region has been a hotbed of various terrorist activities in recent years largely due to failed and weak governments backed by Western states.

TERRORIST ORGANISATION IN AFRICA

1. Boko Haram (Nigeria)
2. Al-Shabaab (Somalia)
3. Ansar Dine (Mali)

4. Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (North Africa)
5. Lord's Resistance Army (Uganda)
6. ADF-NALU (Democratic Republic of Congo)
7. National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (Mali)
8. Allied Democratic Forces (Uganda)
9. Al-Mourabitoun (Mali)
10. Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (Mujao) (Mali)

1. Consider the following pairs: UPSC 2022

	Country		Important reason for being in the news recently
1.	Chad	—	Setting up of permanent military base by China
2.	Guinea	—	Suspension of Constitution and Government by military
3.	Lebanon	—	Severe and prolonged economic depression
4.	Tunisia	—	Suspension of Parliament by President

How many pairs given above are correctly, matched?

- a) Only one pair
- b) Only two pairs
- c) Only three pairs
- d) All four pairs

Ans C

Statement 1 is incorrect :

- Chad is a landlocked country in north-central Africa.
- Chad is a largely semi-desert country, is rich in gold and uranium, and stands to benefit from its recently-acquired status as an oil-exporting state.
- China has no permanent military base in Chad.

Statement 2 is correct :

- Guinea is a country in West Africa, bordered on the west by the Atlantic Ocean.
- The president of Guinea was detained after a successful military coup in the West African nation.
- The coup was reportedly led by special task forces led by Colonel Mamady Doumbouya, the head of Guinean Special Forces.

Statement 3 is correct

- Lebanon is a country located on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea.
- It consists of a narrow strip of territory and is one of the world's smaller sovereign states. The capital is Beirut.
- Lebanon is an import-dependent country. The badly damaged port facility is Lebanon's largest maritime gateway and it will make essential items expensive and threaten food security in the country.
- Lebanon has already been struggling with a huge economic meltdown, with the rapid devaluation of the local currency and a volatile exchange rate on the black market fueling inflation, shuttering businesses, unemployment, and poverty.
- It had also defaulted on a Eurobond repayment in March 2020.

Statement 4 is correct :

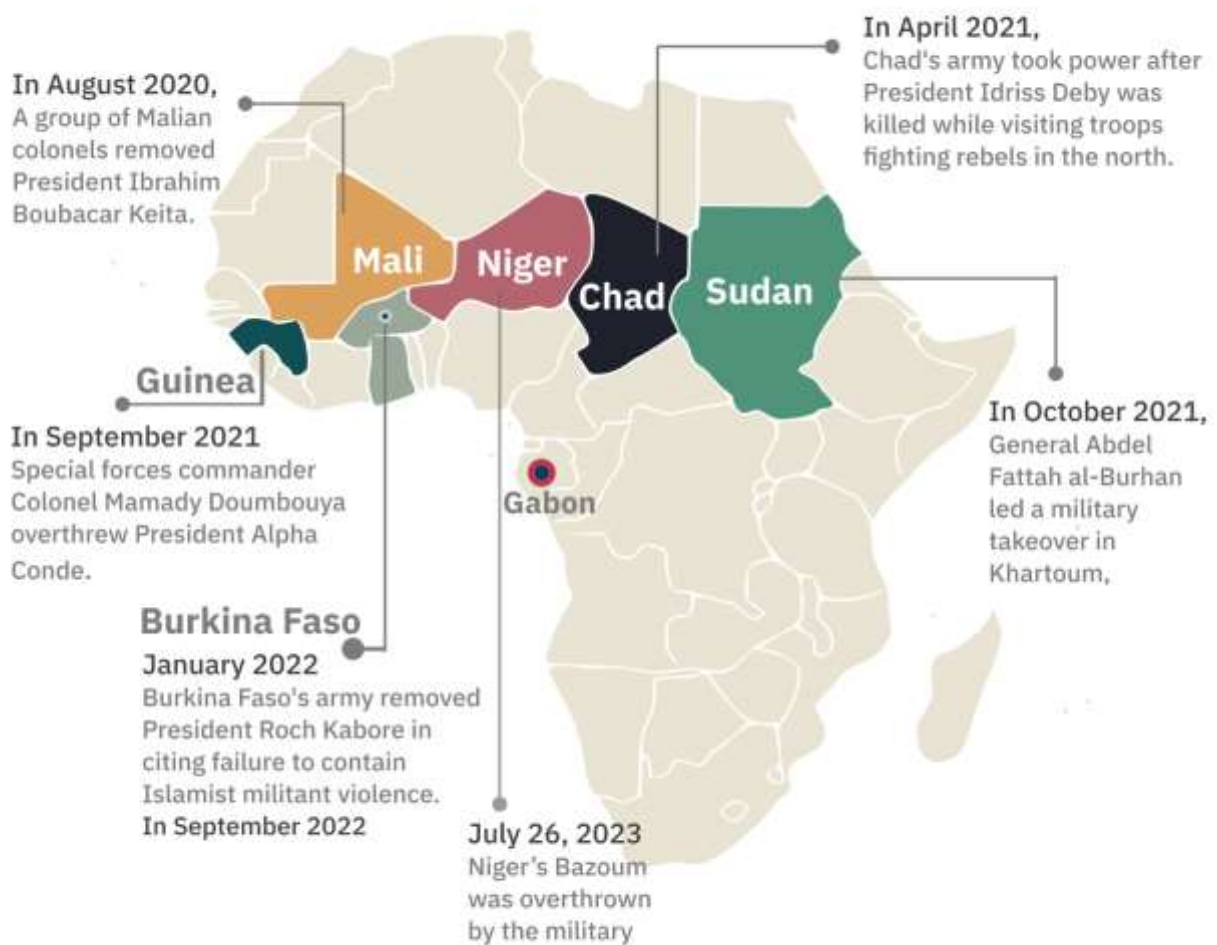
- Tunisia is a country in North Africa.
- Tunisia's accessible Mediterranean Sea coastline and strategic location have attracted conquerors and visitors through the ages, and its ready access to the Sahara has brought its people into contact with inhabitants of the African interior.
- Tunisia's President Kais Saied on Monday extended his months-long suspension of parliament until new elections in December 2022, while calling for a July referendum on constitutional reforms.

2 In the recent years Chad, Guinea, Mali and Sudan caught the international attention for which one of the following reasons common to all of them? UPSC 2023

- a) Discovery of rich deposits of rare earth elements
- b) Establishment of Chinese military bases.
- c) Southward expansion of Sahara Desert
- d) Successful coups

Ans D

- In past few years, military leaders have toppled the governments of Mali, Chad, Guinea, Sudan and Burkina Faso.
- These five nations that have recently experienced military coups
- The African Union has suspended all four countries from membership. The United Nations has also imposed sanctions on some of the coup leaders.



3 Q. Consider the following pairs :

Area of conflict mentioned in news – Country where it is located

1. Donbas – Syria
2. Kachin – Ethiopia
3. Tigray – North Yemen

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two

- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: (d) None

Donbas Region includes Donetsk and Luhansk are two states located in eastern Ukraine, which share a border with Russia



Kachin region

located in the northern part of Myanmar (Burma).

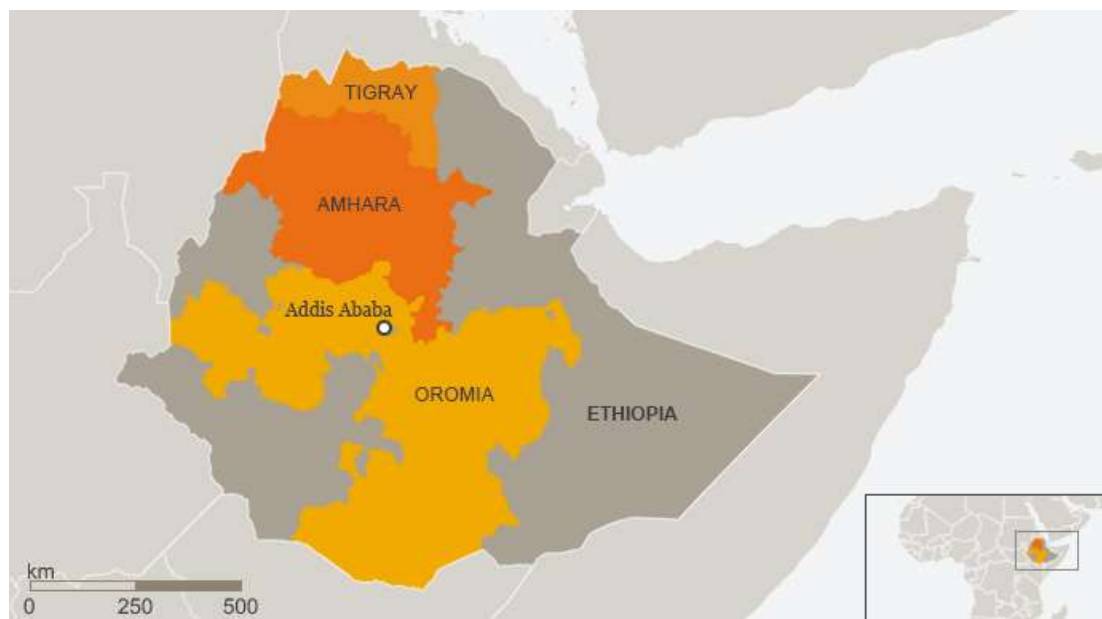
- It shares borders with China to the north and east, Shan State to the south, and Sagaing Region to the west.
- In News : Internal conflict in Myanmar: Rohingya conflict, Kachin conflict, Karen conflict, Conflict in Rakhine State.



Tigray region located in the northern part of Ethiopia. In News for civil war, food insecurity , government and rebels issues , military conflicts etc



- Oromo conflict is a protracted conflict between the Oromo Liberation Front and the Ethiopian government. The Oromo Liberation Front formed to fight the Ethiopian Empire to liberate the Oromo people and establish an independent state of Oromia.



Q. Consider the following pairs: 2022

	Country		Region often mentioned in the news
1.	Anatolia	—	Turkey
2.	Amhara	—	Ethiopia
3.	Cabo Delgado	—	Spain
4.	Catalonia	—	Italy

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- Only one pair
- Only two pairs
- Only three pairs

d) All four pairs

Answer: (b) Only two pairs

- Anatolia is a large peninsula in Western Asia and covers a major part of Turkey. Anatolia bound by Black Sea, Mediterranean sea , Aegean sea and Sea of Marmara
- Amhara Region officially the Amhara National Regional State is a regional state in northern Ethiopia and the homeland of the Amhara people.
- Cabo Delgado is the northernmost province of Mozambique. As well as bordering Mtwara Region in the neighboring country of Tanzania, it borders the provinces of Nampula and Niassa
- The Catalonia region, in northeastern Spain.

Q. Community sometimes mentioned in the news In the affairs of

1. Kurd : Bangladesh
2. Madhesi : Nepal
3. Robingya : Myanmar

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- 1 and 2
- 2 only
- 2 and 3
- 3 only

Answer: (c) 2 and 3

- Kurds are the Muslim ethnic group predominantly in the Middle East.
- Kurds inhabit a mountainous region straddling the borders of Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran and Armenia.
- They make up the fourth-largest ethnic group in the Middle East, but they have never obtained a permanent nation-state.

Madhesi were in news for demanding greater representation for the community in the Nepalese constitution.

- The Madhesi also referred to as Teraibasi Nepali are an indigenous ethnic group of Nepalese people who are natives of the Madhesh plains of Southern Nepal in Terai belt of South Asia.

Rohingya are an ethnic group, the majority of whom are Muslim, who have lived in Myanmar province of Rakhine.



The Economist

African Union (AU)

- is a [continental union](#) consisting of [55 member states](#)
- was announced in the Sirte Declaration in Sirte, Libya, on 9 September 1999 calling for the establishment of the African Union.
- Founded and Launched :2002
- HQ [Addis Ababa](#). (Ethiopia)
- Currently Suspended Countries : [Burkina Faso](#), [Guinea](#), [Mali](#), Sudan , Niger and Gabon
- AU member of G20.
- Recently Israel suspended from AU since Feb2023 .

IMPORTANCE OF AFRICA FOR INDIA :

GEOSTRATEGIC:

- Africa is important for its strategic location between West Asia, Europe and Asia.
- Key Gateway for Indian trade and energy supplies and access to crucial maritime route /straits like : Suez canal, Bab el mandeb strait, Gibraltar Strait .
- Key Region for Natural Resource, Mineral resource -vital for Indian Economy
- Africa is critical to India's security, especially the Horn of Africa region, because of its proximity with India. The threat of radicalism, piracy, organized crime emerge from this region
- Calling Africa "[India's top priority](#)," the African Union was included as a full member of the G-20 at the New Delhi Summit in September 2023

GEOECONOMIC:

- India Africa's third largest trading partner after the European Union and China.
- India is also the [second largest lender in Africa](#), with strong public-private partnerships after china
- Potential Market for Indian Goods and Services
- ample agricultural land which can address India's food security. India is looking at leasing land in Africa to overcome the land deficit that we face in terms of arable land
- Key Valuable Resources in Africa
- Increasing Population and consumer demand provide various opportunities for Indian business to expand operations and Indian exports.

[GEOPOLITICAL:](#)

- Africa becoming battleground for influence and power projections among major Global players- China, USA, Russia
- India and Africa have prioritised key sectors to boost bilateral trade and address common challenges
- India engagement with Africa is essential to protect its strategic interest and fostering ties with various countries through diplomatic initiatives, Trade agreements and development partnerships
- Support of African countries is important for India's aim of gaining a permanent seat in UNSC
- Africa provides a space for displaying both India's soft and hard power
- India has been actively involved in peace and stability of African countries through UN Peace keeping operations. India is involved in capacity building of African countries.
- Work with African countries to restructure global financial and multilateral institutions to prioritize the Global South

India Soft Power Instruments

- ITEC
- IDEAS
- LoC
- Currency Swap Agreements

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC)

- launched on 15 September 1964
- administered by the [Ministry of External Affairs](#)

- it is International capacity building Platform and bilateral assistance programme in India
- ITEC has also been an important component of India's assistance to African nations
- ITEC covers 160+ countries across [Asia](#), [Africa](#), [Latin America](#), [Central](#) and [Eastern Europe](#), and several [Pacific](#) and [Caribbean nations](#) help in defence and civil Sector
- So This Programme augmented India's soft power among developing nations

SCOPE : Six Areas

- training for civil and defence personnel,
- projects and project related activities such as consultancy services,
- study tours,
- donation of equipment,
- deputation of Indian experts in the partner nation and
- aid for disaster relief.

EXIM Bank or Export-Import Bank of India

- is India's leading export financing institute that engages in integrating foreign trade and investment with the country's economic growth.
- was established in 1982 HQ Mumbai
- It is regulated by RBI. and owned by GOI

Concept of Line of Credit

- is a financing mechanism through which Indian EXIM (Export- Import) Bank extends support for exports of projects as recommended by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- is not a grant but a 'soft loan' provided on concessional interest rates to developing countries, which has to be repaid by the borrowing government.
- The LOCs also helps to promote exports of Indian goods and services, as 75% of the value of the contract must be sourced from India.
- The projects under LOCs are spread over different sectors (Agriculture, Infrastructure, Telecom, Railway, Transmission/Power, Renewable Energy etc.)
- So LOC concept have strengthen bilateral cooperation with other countries
- EXIM bank extends Loc, under the IDEAS Scheme to Overseas governments in developing countries

Indian Development Assistance Scheme (IDEAS)

- It promotes India's political, economic and strategic interests besides building a positive image of India abroad.
- Under Ministry of Finance

Concept of Currency Swap and its benefits in Bilateral relations

- Swap means Exchange Currency
- An arrangement between two friendly countries to involve in trading in their own local currencies.
- In such arrangements *no third country currency is involved, thereby eliminating the need to worry about exchange variations.*
- is an off-balance sheet transaction in which two parties trade capital and interest in different currencies

main advantage of such a facility is the absence of exchange rate risk.