



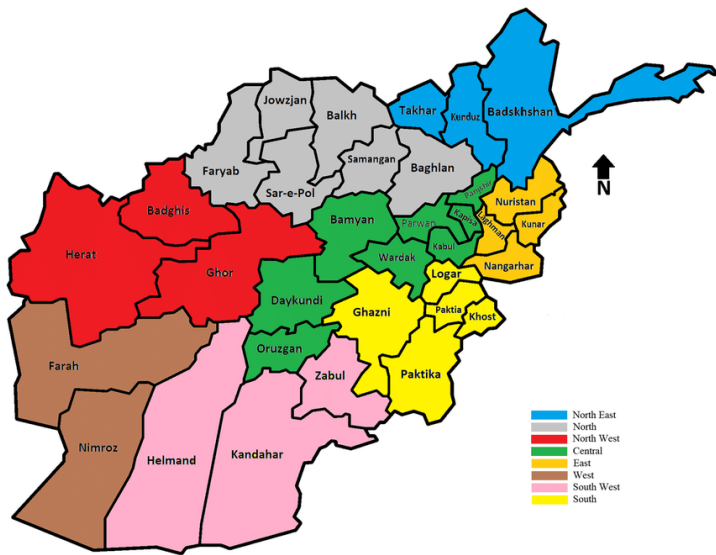
Consider the following countries: (2022)

1. Azerbaijan
2. Kyrgyzstan
3. Tajikistan
4. Turkmenistan
5. Uzbekistan

- (a) 1, 2 and 5 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 3, 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Which of the above have borders with Afghanistan?





Afghanistan is administratively divided into 34 provinces ([wilayats](#))

INTRODUCTION : ABOUT AFGHANISTAN :

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

- is a landlocked country located at the crossroads of Central Asia and South Asia.
- Referred to as the Heart of Asia
- Borders : Pakistan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikstan and China
- Afghanistan is administratively divided into 34 provinces (wilayats)
- Kabul is the country's largest city and serves as its capital.
- Popularly referred to as the graveyard of empires,
- the land has historically been home to various peoples and has witnessed numerous military campaigns, including those by the Persians, Alexander the Great, the Maurya Empire, Arab Muslims, the Mongols, the British, the Soviet Union, and most recently by an American-led coalition.
- largest City: Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kunduz and Jalalabad
- India operates an embassy in Kabul and consulates in Herat, Kandahar, Jalalabad and Mazar-e-Sharif.
- An estimated 99.7% of the Afghan population is Muslim (70% Sunni)
- Agricultural production is the backbone of Afghanistan's economy, finest pomegranates, grapes, apricots, melons, and several other fresh and dry fruits. It is also known as the world's largest producer of opium

Afghanistan

- is one of the least developed countries
- Less in Human Dev Index and worse in per-capita GDP (PPP)

- the country has dealt with high levels of terrorism, poverty, and child malnutrition
- The nation still requires more schools and teachers. and focus need on Health Sector
- central challenge is poverty and inequality and insecurity, not at the sub-national level but at the regional level.”
- Nations criticise for Human rights , woman rights issue
- In December 2022, the Taliban government also prohibited university education and primary education for females in Afghanistan, sparking protests and international condemnation
- under-investment in education and training, migration, lack of infrastructure and equipment and poor remuneration.
- Afghanistan's health workforce shortage is a result of the continues war in the country since 1978.
- Polio still present in this country (+ Pakistan)

Historical Background

Ancient Phase

- The Indus Valley Civilization is where the ties between the people of Afghanistan and India first began and thus the foundation of the India-Afghanistan Relations was established.
- After Alexander’s Invasion, Afghanistan was ruled by the successor state of the Seleucid Empire.
- Prior to the entrance of Islam in the 7th century, much of Afghanistan was influenced by Buddhist, Hindu, and Zoroastrian civilizations which were brought from India by the Mauryans, who also dominated the region south of the Hindu Kush.
- The Muslims and Hindus coexisted in Afghanistan, despite the fact that many Afghans converted to Islam. Medieval and Colonial Phase Afghan is also a center of ‘great games’.
- In Medieval times it was between Persian and Mughal Empire.
- During colonial times it was between Russia and Britain.

From the 10th century to the mid 18th century, northern India has been invaded by a number of invaders based in what today is Afghanistan. Some of them were Ghaznavids, Khaljis, Mughals, Durrani etc.. Ahmad Shāh Durrānī also known as Ahmad Khān Abdālī was the founder of the Durrani Empire. The Third battle of Panipat was fought between Durrani's Afghan forces and the Maratha forces in January 1761, and resulted in a decisive Durrani victory. This brought Punjab till north of Sutlej river under Afghan control. Ahmad Shah Durrani vacated Delhi soon after the battle and is regarded as the founder of the modern state of Afghanistan.

Colonial Phase

THREE ANGLO - AFGHAN WAR WHICH SHAPED AFGHANISTAN POLITICAL LANDSCAPE First Anglo-Afghan War (1839–1842)

- To prevent further extension of Russia towards the South, the British invaded Afghanistan in 1839
- British defeated by Pashtun forces

Second Anglo-Afghan War (1878–1880)

- British Invaded again in 1878
- British Succeeded- British control over Afghanistan Foreign Policy in return for protection and promise not to interfere in Afghanistan internal affairs
- Third Anglo-Afghan War (1919)
- Outcome: This conflict was initiated by Afghanistan's declaration of independence following World War I.
- Winner Afghan - treaty of Rawalpindi - and result Afghan regaining their foreign affairs from Britain .
- It was peace treaty recognizing Afghanistan's full sovereignty from British influence.
- and recognised Durand line as border

.Durand Line :

- 2,430-kilometre International border between Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- Sir Mortimer Durand had drawn this line in 1893 between Afghanistan and then British India, which later got divided into two countries India and Pakistan in 1947.
- It politically divides ethnic Pashtuns, as well as the Baloch and other ethnic groups, who live on both sides of the border in Afghanistan as well as in Pakistan.
- still debate ?
- The Pashtun led Taliban has never recognised the Durand Line
- Durand Line is internationally recognized as the western border of Pakistan but is not recognized by Afghanistan.
- Afghanistan considers Durand Line as a disputed border demarcation with no legal sanctity and calls it a de facto border
- It was not an internationally recognized boundary but a de-facto arrangement keeping the geopolitical developments in mind at that point in time.
- The Indian National Congress was actively supported by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan of Afghanistan, a significant figure in the Indian independence **movement**. The participation of Afghan leaders in the freedom movement is also a pillar to strengthen India-Afghanistan Relations.

Importance for India:

- The geographical location of the Wakhan Corridor makes it geo-strategically significant for India in the context of Central Asia.
- The Corridor has been central to the ancient Silk Road, Great Game, and Cold War, and now China seemingly has plans to convert the Wakhan Corridor into a curious case of 'Corridor of Power or Conflict'.
- From the Indian perspective, Gilgit Baltistan and Wakhan Corridor region could emerge as India's Gateway to Central Asian Republics and their expanding markets.

ABOUT WAKHAN CORRIDOR :

- Called as "roof of the world"
- The area is populated by the Wakhins who are the members of a nomadic tribe in the region
- it is salient or panhandle ; Is a narrow strip of territory, pan shaped region
- located at the crossroads of five countries vis. Afghanistan, Tajikistan, China, Pakistan and India Key Regions Connecting
- In Badakhshan Province Of Afghanistan, Extending To Xinjiang In China And Separating
- The Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region Of Tajikistan From The Gilgit-Baltistan Region Of Pakistan-Administered Kashmir.

WAKHAN IMPORTANCE FOR INDIA :

Geo-strategically - Key region for India gateway to Central Asia to expand India's National Interest and China has deep interest in this region as " Corridor of Power"
Geo-economic - Part of Ancient Silk Route; expands markets in Central Asia
Geo- political - Part of Great Game and Cold war geopolitics

BACKGROUND OF WAKHAN CORRIDOR REGION :

Created in the 19th century as a Great Game - a Geopolitical Struggle between Russia and British Empire for control of Central Asia .

The Corridor Was A Political Creation Of The Great Game. It Was Formed In 1893

The Wakhan Was Established As An Imperial Buffer Zone Between The Russian And British Empires

It can be reached from surrounding countries through the "Pamir Knot", where three of the highest mountain ranges in the world converge. It is patrolled by forces of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, which took over responsibility from the previous NATO-trained Afghan National Security Forces.

On The Corridor's North Side, Agreements Between Britain And Russia In 1873 And Between Britain And Afghanistan In 1893 Effectively Split The Historic Area Of Wakhan By

Making The Panj And Pamir Rivers The Border Between Afghanistan And The Russian Empire. On Its South Side, The Durand Line Agreement Of 1893 Marked The Boundary Between British India And Afghanistan. and created wakhlan corridor and divided the pashtun areas in two, setting up for future tensions. So It Was Agreement Between UK And Afghanistan Which Created Durand Line

SIGNIFICANCE OF AFGHANISTAN TO INDIA

Historical and cultural ties : IVC and Gandhara Region- Key Trade and culture region Geopolitical Significance :Afghanistan is at an important geostrategic location, connecting South Asia and East and West Asia or the Middle East. Afghanistan is of vital importance as a tool of counterbalance to Pakistan and China. A peaceful Afghanistan is good for Indian trade and energy security.

Economic Interest : Energy Security: Afghanistan is crucial to India's energy security, as a pipeline from Turkmenistan to India, the TAPI project, will pass through the country. Afghanistan is India's gateway to energy rich Central Asia. Central Asia has large deposits of oil and natural gas. Afghanistan is an energy bridge and thus key to achieving India's strategic objectives.

Minerals: The country is home to resource deposits worth one trillion dollars, according to the US Geological Survey. Ex province of Bamiyan;

Huge deposits of energy raw materials and high-value mineral deposits. A substantial concentration of such resources is along Afghanistan's borders with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, and Turkmenistan. Further, most Afghan resources remain untapped.

Security concerns : India perceives Afghanistan as a buffer against terrorism emanating from its western neighbor, Pakistan. The rise of extremist groups in Afghanistan poses a direct threat to Indian security

Humanitarian Assistance and Soft Power India has positioned itself as a major provider of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, which enhances its soft power in the region. Initiatives such as scholarships for Afghan students and medical assistance have helped build goodwill among the Afghan populace towards India.

Recent Developments Post-Taliban Takeover

Following the Taliban's return to power in 2021, India's approach has evolved but remains focused on providing humanitarian aid while navigating complex diplomatic waters. The reopening of its embassy in Kabul signifies India's intent to maintain engagement despite challenges posed by the current regime.

In summary, Afghanistan matters to India due to historical ties, geopolitical significance, security concerns related to terrorism, economic interests through investments and

trade routes, efforts to counter Pakistani influence, humanitarian initiatives enhancing soft power, and ongoing diplomatic engagement amidst changing political landscapes.

India and Illicit Drug Trade

India is in the middle of two major illicit opium production regions in the world, the Golden Crescent (Iran-Afghanistan-Pakistan) in the west and the Golden Triangle (South-East Asia) in the east.



Golden Triangle

- It represents the region coinciding with the rural mountains of Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand.

It is Southeast Asia's main opium-producing region and one of the oldest narcotics supply routes to Europe and North America.

Golden Crescent

This region of South Asia is a principal global site for opium production and distribution.

It comprises Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.

- **Golden Crescent is territorially larger than Golden Triangle.**

IMPACT ON INDIA : Challenge to India's National Security

Iran is not an opium producing country in this region but is more that of a trans-shipment country.

The coastally neighboring countries to Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent make trans-boundary narco-trafficking an international concern.

- With Close proximity to the Golden Triangle region and Golden Crescent region , India's populace is badly affected by the high volume of drugs passing through the region.

The problem is further compounded by a porous and poorly guarded border, which is an enabling environment for drug traffickers.

- Drug addiction and trafficking can harm the national security and integrity of a nation and degrades the human resource of a country.
- Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozpur and Fazilka districts sharing the border with Pakistan are part of the drug smuggling route which the Pakistan or Afghanistan based drug smugglers use to move their consignments.

BACKGROUND :

Religion based Non State Actors is AlQaeda, Taliban , ISIS

- ❖ Al -Qaeda(Foundaion in Arabic):
 - Follow Wahhabism- an extreme form of Sunni Islam that insist on literal interpretation of Quran/Koran.
 - Wahabism is the ultra-conservative, branch of Sunni Islam, deeply rooted in the ideology of restoring Muslim power
 - **Founded in 1988** in Pakistan by Osama Bin Laden and Mohammad Atif. This group behind 9/11 attack in New York killed 2977.
 - **Aim:** establish an Islamic State based on Sharia Law and oppose west culture.

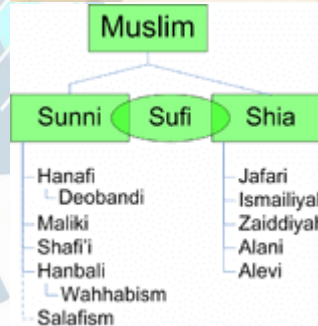
- ❖ Taliban (Student in Arabic) :
 - is a Deobandi Islamic fundamentalist and Pashtun nationalist militant political movement in Afghanistan
 - Deobandi branch less extreme than Wahabhi; it is traditional Pashtun tribal in Afganistan, differ from Taliban, both practices branches of Sunni Islam,
 - Started 1994 and governed country for 5 years 1996-2001.
 - Being Overthrown following the United States invasion. It recaptured Kabul on 15 August 2021 after nearly 20 years of insurgency, and currently controls all of the country, although its government has not yet been recognized by any country.
 - Allies haqqani network
 - Afghan Civil war 1992 - 1996

❖ **Jaish-e-Mohammed**

- is a Pakistan-based Deobandi Jihadist militant group active in Kashmir which is widely considered as a terrorist group
- The group's primary motive is to separate Kashmir from India and merge it into Pakistan.
- Since its inception in 2000, the group has carried out several attacks in the state of Jammu and Kashmir ex the 2001 Indian Parliament attack, the 2016 Pathankot airbase attack, the 2016 attack on the Indian Mission in Mazar-i-Sharif, the 2016 Uri attack, and the 2019 Pulwama attack,
- ❖ Islamic State :

- establish 2014 in week after Mosul was captured when Taliban commanders defeated and swore allegiance to IS leader Abu Bakr al Baghdadi.
- Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant , ISIL
- Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, ISIS
- follows the Salafi jihadist branch of Sunni Islam
- IS has officially declared that it has a presence in the following countries and regions: Iraq, Syria, Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, "Khorasan" (the Afghanistan-Pakistan region), "the Caucasus", "East Asia" (mostly active in the Philippines), Somalia, and "West Africa" (mostly active in Nigeria).Tunisia and Burkina Faso

Sharia law :is a **body of religious law that forms a part of the Islamic tradition**



85 % Muslims Sunni: 15 % Shia (minority Muslim)

After the death of Prophet Mohammad in 632 A.D., a strong disagreement among the followers of Islam emerged on who should succeed Prophet Mohammad as the leader of the Islamic Community. The schism emerged as the Prophet Mohammad died without a male heir and never stated who should be his successor.

While some believed that the successor must be chosen by consensus, others believed that only Prophet's descendants must lead the new faith.

Sunni sect won and chose Prophet's close friend Abu Bakar as his successor and the first caliph of Islam. Islam's holiest shrines, Mecca and Medina

Shia Sect wanted the prophet's descendant Ali, his cousin and son in law, to succeed him

Karbala, Kufa and Najaf in Iraq are revered shrines for the Shias



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- under-investment in education and training, migration, lack of infrastructure and equipment and poor remuneration.
- Afghanistan's health workforce shortage is a result of the continues war in the country since 1978.
- Polio still present in this country (+ Pakistan)

Conclusion:

Groups like Taliban and ISIS have been trying to get a control over Afghanistan using violent means. There is thus, a **need for some kind of strong regional grouping (like Heart of Asia platform)- both diplomatic and military-** to help in **improving the control of Afghanistan Government** over the region and tackle threats like terrorism and extremism in the region. And Cordinated Efforts of International Community for Stable and democratic Afghanistan .

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Medieval and Colonial Phase

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Taliban operation	Dates of	1994–1996 (militia)
		1996–2001 (1st government)
		2002–2021 (insurgency)
		2021–present (2nd government)

2021 re-established the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan with an interim government made up entirely of Taliban members; the regime currently remains internationally unrecognized

India - Afghanistan Perspectives

shuttle diplomacy

- International Relations, **shuttle diplomacy** is the action of an outside party in serving as an intermediary between (or among) principals in a dispute, without direct principal-to-principal contact.
- negotiation Mediators have adopted the term "shuttle diplomacy" as well
- French president Emmanuel Macron's shuttle diplomacy was unsuccessful in preventing the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine
- China, Russia, USA Shuttle Diplomacy in Afghanistan
- The Taliban controlled 95% of the territory by 2001 and only Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates recognized them as the government of Afghanistan. The remaining 5% belonged to rebel forces that became known as the Northern Alliance. like US, Russia, India Turkey, Iran
- After the Taliban's refusal to hand over Osama bin Laden to U.S. authorities for his involvement in the 11 September 2001 attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. Taliban was officially ousted from power on November 17, 2001.
- 2001 – United States and coalition forces invade Afghanistan and overthrow the Taliban government. Hamid Karzai becomes leader of the Afghan Interim Administration at the International Conference on Afghanistan in Germany.
- 2003 - Loya Jirga adopts new constitution, restructuring the government as an Islamic republic.
- 2004 - Hamid Karzai is elected President of Afghanistan.
- 2014 - Ashraf Ghani is elected President of Afghanistan,
- The Taliban returned to power in 2021 following Kabul's capture by the Taliban and the concurrent overthrow of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, ending the 2001–2021 war.
- Although initially claiming to form an inclusive government for the country, the Taliban in September

India and Afghanistan have a strong relationship based on historical and cultural links. India has been, and continues to be, a steadfast partner in the reconstruction and development efforts in Afghanistan.

The principal focus of India's development assistance has been to build capacities and capabilities of Afghan nationals and its institutions for governance and delivery of public service, develop socio-economic infrastructure, secure lives and promote livelihood.

Focus on measures to enhance bilateral trade; reaffirming the importance of connectivity and free and unfettered transport and transit access for Afghanistan.

India and Afghanistan established a Direct Air Freight Corridor from Kabul to Delhi, Kandahar -New Delhi help Afghan People and farmers to quick and direct access to Indian Markets for their perishable produce

Chabahar Port located in Sistan Baluchistan province in Iran, is an imp infrastructure development project being currently undertaken by both India and Iran for enhancing sea-land connectivity with Afghanistan and Central Asia Region.

Government of India supply wheat shipment to Afghanistan via Chabhar Port

India build Afghanistan Parliament Building .The sessions of both Upper House (Meshrano Jirga) and Lower House (Wolesi Jirga) are now being held in the new building.

Road from Zaranj to Delaram Construction of a 218 km road from Zaranj to Delaram for facilitating movement of goods and services to the Iranian border was completed in 2010. The highway will connect Iran with the Garland Highway, which links Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif Herat and Kunduz.

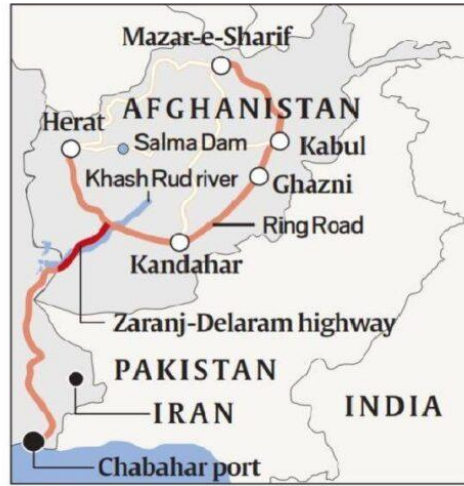
WHAT IS AT STAKE?

- The Zaranj-Delaram Highway project, estimated to cost US\$134 million, is possibly the most important for both India and Afghanistan



- Power transmission lines from the Uzbek border to Kabul over the Hindu Kush mountains. The lines are operated by the multi-country, multi-agency North East Power System (NEPS)

- Salma Dam, now called the **Afghan-India Friendship Dam**, on the Hari Rud that produces 42 MW of power and irrigates 75,000 hectares of land



- Afghan India Friendship Dam or Salam Dam : located on the Hari River in Chishti Sharif District of Herat Province in western Afghanistan.
- it has an installed capacity of 42 MW and supplies water for irrigating 75,000 hectares of land. Since then, the project has been generating electricity and releasing water for irrigation.
- Since this project is funded and constructed by the Government of India (2016) as a part of the Indian aid project, the Afghan cabinet renamed the Salma Dam to the Afghan-India Friendship Dam
- The dam was inaugurated on 4 June 2016 by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

India develop and assisted various small development projects in areas of Education, public Health, Agriculture, Rural Development and various community development projects in hydropower and infrastructure like sports infrastructure, administrative infrastructure.

Low cost housing project for returning Afghans refugees in Nangarhar Province to promote resettlement

Construction of a polyclinic in Mazar-e-Sharif

- Establishment of Gypsum board manufacturing plant in Kabul to promote value added industry

Assistance to Afghanistan in use of remote sensing technology, including in agriculture and resource management.

Scholarship Scheme for 500 Children/ Dependents of Afghan National Defence & Security Forces (ANDSF) to be implemented by ICCR and special Scholarship Scheme for Various Afghan Nationals

Training, including to Afghan civil servants, defence and police personnel in Indian institutions.

The historic 100 year old Stor Palace located in Afghan Foreign Office premises in Kabul

Development of space sector in Afghanistan: The MoU envisages cooperation between the two countries for application of space technologies in education, agriculture, weather forecasting, telecommunications, rural health, sanitation, urban development, resource mapping navigation, remote sensing and any other areas mutually agreed upon.

India advocated for Afghanistan's membership in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in 2005

Indo-Afghan relations have been strengthened by the **Strategic Partnership Agreement signed between the two countries in 2011** and **gifted four Mi-25 Attack helicopter to Afghan Air forces.**



- Construction of Shahtoot dam and drinking water project for Kabul, that would also facilitate irrigation. is a proposed dam in the Char Asiab District of Kabul Province. The dam will be constructed by engineers from India. It was decided that the dam will be built on Maidan River, which is the tributary of the Kabul river

- Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) between the two sides, inter alia, **provides for assistance to help rebuild Afghanistan's infrastructure and institutions, education and technical assistance** to re-build indigenous Afghan capacity in different areas, encouraging investment in Afghanistan's natural resources, providing duty free access to the Indian market for Afghanistan's exports, support for an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned, broad-based and inclusive process of peace and reconciliation, and advocating the need for a sustained and long-term commitment to Afghanistan by the international community.
- Construction of **220 kV DC transmission line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul**, and a 220/110/20 kV substation at **Chimtala**.
- A Public-Private coalition of Indian iron ore mining and steel companies (AFISCO), led by the Steel Authority of India, won the tender for the **Hajigak iron ore reserves** to build a 1.2 MTPA steel plant, including a 90 MW capacity power plant.
- During the 15th SAARC summit, India committed to pledging another \$450 million alongside a further \$750 million already pledged for ongoing and upcoming projects in Afghanistan.
- India also gave **US\$ 1 Million assistance for flood relief programme** in Badakhshan in May 2014.
- India established **Agriculture University ANASTU** in Kandahar in 2014
- India also offered Afghanistan affordable **pharmaceutical products and medicines**

Indian Diaspora

- Nearly **1710 Indians** are estimated to be present in Afghanistan (August 2020).
- Most of the Indians are engaged as professionals in Banks, IT firms, construction companies, hospitals, NGOs, telecom companies, security companies, universities, Govt. of India sponsored projects, Govt. of Afghanistan and UN Missions.
- All Indians in Afghanistan have either returned or were evacuated during Operation Devi Shakti, after 2021 Taliban offensive and Fall of Kabul
- **Operation Devi Shakti:** was an operation of the Indian Armed Forces to evacuate Indian citizens and foreign nationals from Afghanistan after the collapse of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the fall of Kabul, the capital city, to the Taliban. It was planned by Ministry of External Affairs and Armed Forces

Note: **Operation Ganga** was an evacuation operation by the Government of India to evacuate the Indian citizens amidst the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, who had crossed over to neighboring countries. This involved transport assistance from the neighboring countries of Romania, Hungary, Poland, Moldova, Slovakia to reach India

Operation Raahat was an operation of the Indian Armed Forces to evacuate Indian citizens and foreign nationals from Yemen during the 2015 military intervention by Saudi Arabia and its allies in that country during the Yemeni Crisis.

Cultural Relations

- India and Afghanistan **share centuries old cultural heritage** with deep rooted linkages in the field of **music, arts, architecture, language and cuisine**. In the field of music, in particular, in the old days, most Afghan musicians were trained in the **Patiala Gharana**.
- Today, **Indian films, songs and TV serials** are hugely popular with the masses, contributing significantly to the popularization of Hindi and familiarization of the populace with Indian socio-cultural value system.
- As part of India's restructuring programme for Afghanistan, India has aimed to take up projects that will render **Afghanistan's cultural heritage sustainable**. The Indian cultural centre has also been working towards building our shared cultural heritage.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with Afghanistan's highest civilian honor, the Amir Amanullah Khan Award**. India gave the extension of ICCR (Indian Council of Cultural Relation) scholarship till 2020.

Significance of Afghanistan to India

India's relationship with Afghanistan has been enduring, strong, and based on common interests.

Afghanistan is at an important geostrategic location, connecting East and West Asia or the Middle East. A peaceful Afghanistan is good for Indian trade and energy security.

- **Strategic:** India's strategic interests lie in the **longterm stability of the country**. Most of the projects taken up by India are directed at capacity building and triggering economic growth. One of the most visible and strategic projects is the **Zaranj Delaram road** which will reduce Afghanistan's dependence on Pakistan, providing a potential alternative route connecting Central Asia. However, optimal utilisation of this road would require greater security mechanisms.
- **Energy Security:** Afghanistan is crucial to India's energy security, as a **pipeline from Turkmenistan to**

India, the TAPI project, will pass through the country. Afghanistan is India's gateway to energy rich Central Asia.

- Central Asia has large deposits of oil and natural gas. Afghanistan is an energy bridge and thus key to achieving India's strategic objectives.

Minerals: The country is home to **resource deposits** worth one trillion dollars, according to the US Geological Survey. A consortium of six Indian companies led by public-sector Steel Authority of India won a 2011 bid to mine steel in the **province of Bamiyan**; it will invest around \$2 billion (Rs 13,057 crore).

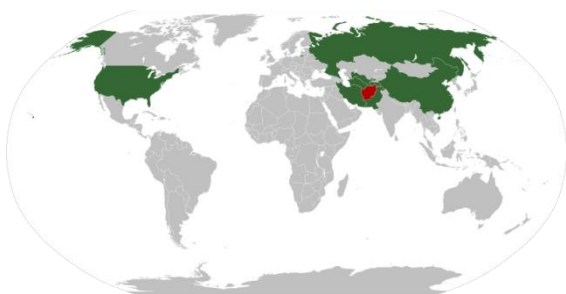
Huge deposits of **energy raw materials and high-value mineral deposits**. A substantial concentration of such resources is along Afghanistan's borders with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, and Turkmenistan. Further, most Afghan resources remain untapped.

Afghanistan is of vital importance as a tool of **counterbalance to Pakistan and China**.

Afghanistan also denies strategic depth to Pakistan. The Pakistan-Afghanistan border remaining active denies Pakistan the opportunity of positioning additional military capabilities along its borders with India.

INTERNATIONAL MEASURES :

A holistic plan of action could be formulated by international mechanisms like the Heart of Asia conference, 6+2 mechanism, etc. to create a peaceful and thriving Afghanistan.



Six plus Two Group

- is an informal coalition of the six nations bordering Afghanistan (China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan), plus the United States and Russia, which functioned from 1997 to 2001 under the aegis of the United Nations.
- The coalition worked to find a peaceful solution for perpetual peace in Afghanistan.
- The objective of the Group was to find a solution to the Afghan problem, to assist in the establishment of a broadly representative and multi-ethnic Afghan government.

- India is not a part of the group.

Heart of Asia Conference (HOAC)

- it is regional cooperation platform
- It was founded in November, 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey.
- Primary Objective: Regional security and cooperation for a secure and stable Afghanistan and near and extended neighbors
- This platform was established to **address the shared challenges and interests of Afghanistan, its neighbours, and regional partners.**
- It is comprised of 14 participating countries, 16 supporting countries, and 12 supporting regional and international organizations.
- India is a participating country.**

- o **India stand :** India believes any peace process must be **Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled**, has to respect the **national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan** and preserve the progress made in the establishment of a **democratic Islamic Republic in Afghanistan.**

Member Countries of Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process

Afghanistan	Pakistan
Azerbaijan	Russia
China	Saudi Arabia
India	Tajikistan
Iran	Turkey
Kazakhstan	Turkmenistan
Kyrgyzstan	United Arab Emirates (UAE)
Uzbekistan	–

Three Pillars of HoAC

1. Political Consultations,
2. Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)
3. Cooperation with Regional Organizations.

India's approach:

India has always stood for an "Afghan-led, Afghan-owned, and Afghan-controlled" peace process.

- The peace process should include all sections of the Afghan society.
- The process should respect the constitution and political mandate.
- Any process shouldn't leave any ungoverned spaces that can be exploited by terrorists.

However, India has recently agreed to negotiate with the Taliban and has recognized it as an important stakeholder in the peace process.

In this backdrop, a coherent peace process should be initiated on the basis of 4Ds:



India could ramp up its relationship with Afghanistan by means of infrastructural projects, development of human capital, medical tourism, etc.

India also needs to look into the distinction between the good and the bad Taliban to find a focal point of starting negotiations.

What is the Significance of Afghanistan for India?

▪ **Economic and Strategic Interest:**

- Afghanistan is a gateway to the **oil and mineral-rich Central Asian republics**.
- Afghanistan's main advantage is its **geography**, as anyone who is in power in Afghanistan **controls the land routes connecting India with Central Asia** (via Afghanistan).
- Located at the **heart of the historic Silk Road**, Afghanistan was long the **crossroads of commerce between Asian countries** connecting them to Europe, and enhancing **religious, cultural, and commercial contacts**.

▪ **Developmental Projects:**

- The massive **reconstruction plans for the country** to offer a lot of opportunities for Indian companies.
- Three major projects:
 - The **Afghan Parliament**, the **Zaranj-Delaram Highway**, and the **Afghanistan-India Friendship Dam (Salma Dam)**, along with India's assistance of **more than USD 3 billion in projects**, hundreds of small development projects (of schools, hospitals and water projects) **have cemented India's position in Afghanistan**.

▪ **Security Interest:**

- India has been the **victim of state-sponsored terrorism** emanating from Pakistan supported terrorist group operating in the region (e.g., Haqqani network). **Thus, India has two priorities in Afghanistan:**

- To prevent Pakistan from setting up a friendly government in Afghanistan, and
- To avoid the return of jihadi groups, like al Qaeda, which could strike in India.

India-Afghanistan Relations: Challenges

The challenges in India-Afghanistan relations are discussed below:

- **Terrorism** – Afghanistan is experiencing a rise in terrorism and is on the verge of collapse. India's security would suffer if terrorism in Afghanistan continued to grow. India is being impacted by the unrest and volatility in Afghanistan as well. The problem of terrorism has grown quite complicated. India needs to engage Afghanistan in a practical manner.
- **Drug Trafficking** – India is concerned by drug trafficking from Afghanistan because of trade links with India. Most of the youthful generation in Punjab and other Indian regions are impacted by drug addiction.
- **Non-democratic regime** – India favours the continuation of a democratically elected government because of its improved relations with the democratic regime. But, after the Taliban took over there was a regime of non-democratic government.
- **Political Instability** – India and other neighbouring countries will be impacted by political instability in the Afghanistan region. In the past, Pakistan has supported the Taliban, and it can now increase that support once more.
- **Proxy war by Pakistan** – Pakistan is playing a hidden role in Afghanistan through proxy war against the Afghan government to tilt the balance in favour of the Taliban regime and due to this India will face the challenge of maintaining peaceful relations with Afghanistan in these circumstances.
- As of June 2018, China started extracting oil in the Amu Darya basin. In January 2023, Chinese oil extractor Asia Petroleum and Gas Co (CAPEIC) signed its first major contract with the Taliban-led government worth US\$150 million a year to further expand oil extraction from the Amu Darya basin and develop an oil reserve in the country's northern Sar-e Pol Province.

- Afghanistan is important for China: Like Belt and Road Initiative and for CPEC.

Conclusion

India wants a 'Stable Afghanistan' and looks forward to a collective approach for regional integration and economic development of Afghanistan. Also, India needs to move beyond the binary of economic cooperation and military engagement, and evolve a comprehensive policy which involves all dimensions of power.

Note

TAPI Pipeline, also called Peace pipeline:

- is a 1,814km natural gas pipeline that originates from Turkmenistan and passes through Afghanistan and Pakistan to reach India. with participation of the Asian Development Bank
 - It aims to monetise Turkmenistan's gas reserves and supply them to neighbouring countries to promote the use of natural gas and improve energy security.
 - started in 2015 but still pending ; As of 2022, construction of the pipeline remains stalled
 - Issue : issues over India-Pakistan tension and the Taliban situation in Afghanistan. The construction was also delayed due to political instability in the country.
 - The project is being developed by **TAPI Pipeline Company (TPCL)**, a consortium established by four individual state-owned gas companies Turkmenistan's Turkmenneftgaz (Turkmenistan), Afghan Gas (Afghanistan), Interstate Gas Service (Pakistan), and **Gas Authority of India and Indian Oil (India)**.

Trans-Afghanistan pipeline



Topic:

- India Maritime Security and Maritime Domain
- India Singapore Bilateral Relations
- India Srilanka Bilateral Relations

About Maritime Domain:

- Maritime domain is important component of Foreign Policy
- it consists of all waterways including seas and oceans, which are useful for transport, extraction of living and non-living resources and security.
- littoral states try to protect and maximize the advantages of maritime domain to serve their national interests,
- the non-littoral states endeavour to ensure the freedom of and access to maritime domain for the same reasons.
- In current scenario, The concept of Economic Power is more Important than Political and Military Power . (Three parts of National Power of the Country)
- So Maritime Security focus on Geo Politics and Geo Economics

India's maritime strategy is largely centered around the Indian Ocean Region and its littoral states, and focus on economic, political and security interests of the country .

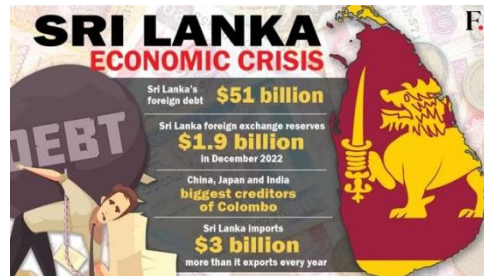
Challenges to maritime security in the Indian Ocean region

- India's coastline vulnerable to various illegal and anti-national activities.
- Traditional threats include the military presence
- terrorism, piracy, and illegal smuggling
- challenges of climate change, increasing Natural disasters ,
- smuggling of goods, gold, narcotics, explosives, arms and ammunition

Project 'Mausam'

- launched in 2014
- is the initiative of Ministry of Culture to be implemented by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as the nodal agency with research support of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and National Museum as associate bodies.
- aims to connect countries on the Indian Ocean ; Two levels of the Projects
- At the macro level, it aims to re-connect and re-establish communications between countries of the Indian Ocean world, which would lead to an enhanced understanding of cultural values and concerns;

- At the micro level, the focus is on understanding national cultures in their regional maritime milieu
- Benefits **39 Indian Ocean countries** identified under Project Mausam
- The project will enable a significant step in recording and celebrating this important phase of world history from the African, Arab and Asian world perspectives.
- The project purpose is to develop the Indian Ocean world which will expand between East Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, the Indian subcontinent and Sri Lanka to the Southeast Asian archipelago



India is Sri Lanka's biggest friend in time of crisis. Recently Sri Lanka declared bankruptcy last year and defaulted on its foreign loans for first time since independence from Britain in 1948

Project Mausam: Significance

- It will help in reconnecting with the other nations in Indian Ocean region.
- It will improve the quantity, associations, and connections with respect to the World Heritage destinations. i.e. boost tourism sector in India
- It will reclassify the social scene by identifying the gaps in World Heritage destinations and filling them through making connections.
- It will provide a multilayered and all-encompassing perspective, which will take into account a new system to help comprehend past and contemporary connections.
- It will help in identifying Indian Ocean's maritime routes to achieve cross-national nomination with sustainable tourism, heritage development, research, visibility, and promotion of cultural conventions.

Sri Lanka faces :

- Political Instability
- Economic Instability
- Social Instability
- Cultural Instability (ethnic problems of Tamils and Buddhist)
- Faces : Traditional Threat and Non Traditional Threats and Human Security Concerns
- Resource War: due to shortage of Food, energy etc
- Unemployment , Corruption, Poverty and related disparities

So, Being a close neighbour, and its Geostrategic Location in Indian Ocean , Its overall stability is crucial for India and for South Asia Regional Stability.

Concept of SAGAR Doctrine/ Policy

- Security and Growth for All in the Region called "SAGAR"
- India's vision and geopolitical framework of maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.
- Phrase coined in 2015 at Port Louis , Mauritius, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi the term has been adapted to include more elements such as linkages with the Indo-Pacific region
- SAGAR involves increasing maritime domain awareness. This is implemented through the Integrated Coastal Surveillance System.

India Role in Sri Lanka :

- As Neighbourhood First Policy, Sri Lanka requirements are India's Priority.
- India provided assistance : of goods, services, investment, and technology through Economic Cooperation, and Promoting balanced development and sustainable growth in the regions of Sri Lanka
- Focus on Structural Power : Monetary Assistance and Technical Assistance
- Much Focus on Soft Power mechanism for cultural cooperation
- Main Focus on Political stability in Sri Lanka and Business and Infrastructure Development , Promote cultural exchange.
- Focus should be more on Food Security, Environmental Security and Economic Security Measures from India
- Various Capacity Building Measures at Organisation and at Individual levels
- both governments are promoting people-to-people and business-to-business ties

Sri Lanka Debate

'India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka'. Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in light of the preceding statement 10 marks

- Business and commercial linkages between the two countries are witnessing steady growth
- India provided Financial assistance like credit lines and ensure food security by food, fuel, fertiliser and even medicine shortages. to srilanka
- Even India help Srilanka for negotiating to get financial assurances from IMF and Paris Club
- All this help Srilanka economic recovery through increased economic activities value addition of products, and services, job creation for Sri Lankan nationals and direct assistance to the people of Sri Lanka through various corporate social responsibility activities

the group called **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**.

IMPORTANCE OF SRI LANKA FOR INDIA

- Strategic position in IOR and Bay of Bengal
- Colombo port is the largest trans-shipment port in South Asia, 70% of Indian Cargo comes through Colombo.

Ceylon - British colonial -Srilanka

A close Partnership between the Countries thus becomes a practical necessity and play a critical role in Maintaining Stability in the Region.

Introduction : A nationalist political movement arose in the country in the early 20th century to obtain political independence, which was granted in 1948; the country became a republic and adopted its current name in 1972.

Concept of Paris Club

- group of mostly western creditor countries
- objective : to find sustainable debt-relief solutions for countries that are unable to repay their bilateral loans.
- Total 12 countries

Sri Lanka's recent history has been marred by a 30-year civil war, which decisively ended when the Sri Lanka Armed Forces defeated the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in 2009.

- Note : As a result of open discrimination, in 1976 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was formed to fight for Tamil rights and in 1983 Civil war started.



- The members are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America.

current constitution: political system as a republic and a unitary state governed by a semi-presidential system. The island is home to many cultures, languages and ethnicities. majority of the population: is from the Sinhalese ethnicity, while a large minority of Tamils have also played an influential role in the island's history. 70% Buddhism, 12.6% Hindu, 9.7% islam, 7.4% Christian.: Total : With a literacy rate of 92.5%

Historically and culturally, the two nations have been considerably close, with 70% of Sri Lankans continuing to follow Theravada Buddhism to this day.

In recent years Sri Lanka has moved closer to China, especially in terms of naval agreements. India has signed a nuclear energy deal to improve relations. India made a nuclear energy pact with Sri Lanka in 2015

COUNTRY CONTEXT : Weakness

1. Sri Lanka is a lower middle-income country. The economy's weak competitiveness is an issue to address
2. Sri Lanka also attracts a much lower volume of FDI than peer economies and the shortcomings of the investment climate pose obstacles for new firms.
3. significantly high state participation in the economy has implications on competitiveness in a number of sectors and labor market dynamics

Il 22 are membe rs of



4. Restrictive trade policies over the past decade have created a strong anti-export bias; , which has been reflected in a dramatic decline in trade

five main challenges of Sri Lanka : World Bank

- **The Fiscal Challenge:** Sri Lanka has one of the lowest tax-to-GDP ratios in the world
- **The Challenge of Fostering Growth and Jobs for the Bottom 40 Percent**
- **The Social Inclusion Challenge like poverty areas in the Northern and Eastern Provinces**
- **The Governance Challenge:** Ineffective governance critically impedes the ability of the state to mobilize revenues and spend effectively
- **The Sustainability Challenge**
 - stay on the fiscal consolidation
 - shift towards a private investment-tradable sector-led growth model by improving trade, investment, innovation and the business environment
 - improve governance and accountability by implementing the Right to Information Act
 - reduce vulnerability and risks in the economy

Economy: In the 19th and 20th centuries, Sri Lanka became a plantation economy, famous for its production and export of cinnamon, rubber and Ceylon tea, which remains a trademark national export. Colonial plantations were dismantled, industries were nationalised and a welfare state established. In 1977 the Free market economy was introduced to the country, incorporating privatisation, deregulation and the promotion of private enterprise. Existence of petroleum and gas in the Gulf of Mannar has also been confirmed and the extraction of recoverable quantities is underway

Indian intervention in the Sri Lankan civil war: Indian intervention in Sri Lankan civil war became inevitable as that civil war threatened India's "unity, national interest and territorial integrity."

India supplied food and medicine by air and sea. After subsequent negotiations, India and Sri Lanka entered into an agreement/13th amendment. The peace accord assigned a certain degree of regional autonomy in the Tamil areas with Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) controlling the regional council and called for the Tamil militant groups to lay down their arms. Further India was to send a peacekeeping force, named the IPKF to Sri Lanka to enforce the disarmament and to watch over the regional council

India's role in Civil war and its implications

- The bilateral relations between India and Sri Lanka deteriorated in 1980's with a rising of the Tamil militant separatism in Sri Lanka.

- In 1987 with the objective of improving the ties, Indo-Sri Lankan Accord was signed between India and Sri Lanka.
- It proposed a political solution to the Sri Lanka's conflict by establishing a provincial council system and devolution of power for nine provinces in Sri Lanka. (This is popularly known as The Thirteenth Amendment (13A) to the Constitution of Sri Lanka)
- India also deployed Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka intended to perform a peacekeeping (It is known as Operation Pawan, which ultimately resulted in the assassination of PM Rajiv Gandhi).
- After two years of constant military engagement, the IPKF was withdrawn as it failed to defeat LTTE.

Finally, in 2009, 25 years of violence ended when Sri Lankan government seized the last area controlled by Tamil Tiger rebels. India at that point of agreed to reconstruct the war-torn areas and started many rehabilitation programs

INDIA'S OPTIONS

- The threat of LTTE still looms especially the sleeper cells and the recent communal threats between Muslims and Buddhist, due to which the powers cannot be devolved and army strength cannot be scaled down.
- India can pressurize the SL government to devolve other powers and make necessary constitutional amendment.
- The NP government should start working with the available powers for the 5 R's – Reconstruction, Resettlement, Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Reconciliation for which the SL government have committed along with the 4 D's – Demilitarisation, Democracy, Devolution and Development.
- India should play the role as a well-wisher and not as an interferer.
- Balance both the govt. (NP and Central) and their engagements.
- There should also be a political maturity among the various stake holders in India on Sri Lankan Tamil issues. Regional politics should never be an obstacle for the independent foreign policy best suited for our NATIONAL INTEREST.

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME BOUNDARY LINE

Palk Strait has been a crucial factor in determining relations between them. The maritime boundary with SL has been demarcated except for the contended area around Katchatheevu Island - which is 18 nautical miles off the Indian coast

- 1974 - delimit the maritime boundary in the Palk Bay
- 1976 - delimit the boundaries in Gulf of Mannar and Bay of Bengal.
- Fishermen from both sides were allowed to fish on their side of the IMBL, and they should not cross

over to the waters of the other country for exploiting the resources.

- At the same time, Indian fishermen were allowed to use the island for drying their nets, to rest etc.
- Pilgrims and Indian Fishermen will not be required to obtain travel and visa documents to enter Island.
- As of now, the island is now under the control of SL
- Both countries have signed bilateral agreements on the maritime boundary as per the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

Katchatheevu Island

- It is an uninhabited island that India ceded to Sri Lanka in 1974 based on a conditional agreement called "Kachchativu island pact".
- Later on, Sri Lanka declared Katchatheevu, a sacred land given the presence of a Catholic shrine
- The central government recognizes Sri Lanka's sovereignty over the island as per the 1974 accord. But Tamil Nadu claimed that Katchatheevu falls under the Indian territory and Tamil fishermen have traditionally believed that it belongs to them and therefore want to preserve the right to fish there.

TRADE : India and Sri Lanka enjoy a robust trade and investment relationship. Sri Lanka is India's second largest trade partner in South Asia. India in turn is Sri Lanka's largest trade partner globally.

- Have signed FTA in 2000.
- bilateral trade amounted to US\$ 4.01 billion in 2012 with exports to India amounting to US\$ 567 mn and imports amounting to US\$ 3.6 bn
- India's major exports to Sri Lanka include automobiles, petroleum products, sugar, cotton, pharmaceuticals and iron and steel, while imports include natural rubber, poultry feed, copper and paper and paper products and textiles
- India is one of the biggest investors in Sri Lanka. Indian cumulative investment in Sri Lanka is above US\$1 billion and Indian companies have committed to nearly US\$2 billion of investments in Sri Lanka for the next 5 years
- Investments are in the areas of petroleum retail, hospitals, metal industries, real estate, telecommunication, hospitality & tourism, banking and financial services, IT and food processing (tea & fruit juices).
- Indian business organisations such as Tatas, Bharti Airtel, Piramal Glass, LIC, Ashok Leyland, Dabur and Taj Hotels are present in Sri Lanka.
- India and Sri Lanka have agreed to take steps to double their bilateral trade to \$10 billion in the next three years.

IMPROVING TRADE

- Address the issues of tariff rate quotas on LDC's, Non-tariff barriers.
- Ensure the early signing of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)
 - Joint ventures between the companies of the two nations should be encouraged.

DEFENCE COOPERATION: mitra shakti and SLINEX

India trains number of SL's military personnel's in India. Also supplies non-lethal, defensive military weapons etc. India is reportedly stepping its defence cooperation with Sri Lanka and the Maldives, two island states in the Indian Ocean and the assistance will focus primarily on "capacity building" of the armed forces of both countries. New Delhi will supply equipment and assist in training. India and SL have signed agreements on Combating International Terrorism and Illicit Drug Trafficking

Areas of cooperation: Cultural Relations

- the People of Indian Origin (PIOs) comprise Sindhis, Gujaratis, Memons, Parsis, Malayalis and Telugu speaking persons who have settled down in Sri Lanka and are engaged in various business ventures.
- Though their numbers (10,000 approx.) are much lesser as compared to Indian Origin Tamils (IOTs), they are economically prosperous and are well settled. Each of these communities has their own groups which organize festivals and cultural events.
- The Cultural Cooperation Agreement has been signed between both the countries.
- The Indian Cultural Centre in Colombo actively promotes awareness of Indian culture by offering classes in Indian music, dance, Hindi, and Yoga. Every year, cultural troops from both countries exchange visits.
- Buddhism is a connecting link between India and Sri Lanka on religious lines.
- Education is another important area of cooperation between India and Sri Lanka. India offers scholarship slots annually to deserving Sri Lankan students.
- Tourism also forms an important link between India and Sri Lanka. India is the largest source of market for Sri Lankan tourism.

Cultural relations enhanced with Simhastha Declaration: a duty centred system which had been origin of Indian philosophy of life. sign at Khumbela, Ujjain-MP, Shipra river

IMPROVING INDIA-SRI LANKA TIES:

- It has been shown in international diplomacy that the stick doesn't work. India's carrot approach through Tamil areas and establish strong trade links and then use that influence.
- Resettlement, tourism, cultural exchange, and trade are few areas that India has distinct advantage over other countries.

- Given its vast resources in fields such as IT and technical education, the State could make an immense contribution through collaborative interaction with people in Jaffna and elsewhere, to ensure that the North emerges as a technical and industrial hub of Sri Lanka especially a service sector based.
 - Students exchange can help in creating a good image of India in the coming generations that are going to rule.
 - Further, in the energy space, companies should look at setting up power stations, transmission and distribution lines and supply of diesel gensets.
 - Engage more through regional groupings such as SAARC, BIMSTEC.
 - The military and defence cooperation and coordination ought to be stepped up to prevent a third party from entering the IOR
- HAMBANTOTA PORT: is a deep-water port in the southern tip of Sri Lanka which is developed by China. India is apprehensive that the port is part of Chinese 'string of pearls' with an objective to surround India.
- China is financing over 85 per cent of the Hambantota Development Zone to be completed over the next decade which includes an international container port, a bunkering system, an oil refinery, and international airport.
 - Sri Lanka-the port is purely for economic operations and is not part of Chinese 'string of pearls'. It says that it had first extended the offer for its development to India and only after getting no response from the country it was given to China.
 - Sri Lanka allowed twice Chinese nuclear submarines to dock at its Colombo harbour despite concerns raised by India.

STRATEGIC RELATIONS : CHINA ANGLE

INDIAN RESPONSE

- The main objective behind is to ensure the security of its sea lanes, especially unhindered flow of critically-needed energy supplies from Africa and West Asia.
 - Sri Lanka is seen as "an important hub on the Maritime Silk Road" by China.
 - China had voted in favour of SL in US sponsored UNHRC resolutions.
 - China supplies huge number of military equipments, arms and ammunitions.
 - China has displaced Japan as Sri Lanka's major aid donor with an annual package of \$1 billion
 - Bilateral trade has doubled over the last five years with China emerging as the third largest trading partner of Sri Lanka.
 - China is Sri Lanka's largest foreign investor and lender. China is now supplying over half of all the construction and development loans Sri Lanka is receiving
 - Chinese investment in the development of infrastructure and oil exploration projects in Sri Lanka have increased - constructing power plants, modernising Lankan railway, providing financial and technical assistance in launching of communication satellites.
 - China is providing interest free loans and preferential loans at subsidised rates to Sri Lanka for the development of infrastructure.
 - First foreign nation to have an exclusive economic zone in Sri Lanka.
 - Some of the important infrastructure projects developed by China in the island state include Hambantota port, Colombo Expressway, Coal Power Project, Mattala Airport etc.
 - Funding from China accounts for more than half of Sri Lanka's construction and development loans. In value terms, it is estimated at over USD six billion-more than any other country.
- India has extended credits totalling \$960 million for upgrading rail communications and renovating and extending rail services from Colombo and across Sri Lanka's Tamil dominated Northern Province.
 - A nearly 400-km long Jaffna-Colombo railway line was recently inaugurated which was reconstructed with Indian assistance (line of credit of \$800 million) 24 years after it was shut down during the civil war
 - India's line of credit is about USD \$1.8 billion, although the figure is roughly half of China's current line of credit which stands at roughly USD \$3.4 billion.
 - India has allocated an estimated \$1.3 billion- its largest ever development assistance programme — for Northern Sri Lanka.
 - India will be providing Sri Lankan \$5 million worth of immediate relief to those affected by landslides in Sri Lanka
 - 500 MW thermal power plant in Sampur, through a joint venture between India's National Thermal Power Corporation and the Ceylon Electricity Board is under progress.
 - Rehabilitation effort in the NP – Renovation of the Palaly Airport and the Kankesanthurai harbour, medical assistance, one million roofing sheets and agricultural implements, for displaced Tamils.
 - At the grassroots levels, 2,50,000 family packs comprising clothing, utensils and food items have been distributed. Cement and other building materials have been given for war damaged houses and 95,000 packs of seeds and agricultural implements provided to those tilling the land. The projects being undertaken include the construction of 50,000 homes and supply of materials to repair around 43,000 residences.

- India also continues to assist a large number of smaller development projects in areas like education, health, transport connectivity, small and medium enterprise development and training in many parts of the country through its grant funding.

Q1. "Rapid Financing Instrument" and "Rapid Credit Facility" are related to the provisions of lending by which one of the following? (2022)

- (a) Asian Development Bank
- (b) International Monetary Fund
- (c) United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative
- (d) World Bank

Ans: (b)

Exp:

- Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI)** provides quick financial assistance, which is available to all member countries facing urgent balance of payments requirements. The RFI was created as part of a broader reform to **make IMF financial support more flexible** to meet the diverse needs of member states. The RFI replaces the IMF's previous emergency assistance policy and can be used in a wide variety of circumstances.
- The **Rapid Credit Facility (RCF)** provides immediate balance of payments (BoP) requirements to low-income countries (LICs) with no ex-post condition, where a full economic program is neither necessary nor feasible. RCF was set up as part of a comprehensive reform to make the fund's financial support more flexible and better suited to suit the diverse needs of LIC including times of crisis.
- There are three areas under the RCF: (i) a "regular window" for immediate BoP needs due to a wide range of sources such as household instability, emergencies and fragility (ii) for immediate BoP needs due to sudden, exogenous shocks. an "exogenous shock window" and (iii) a "large natural disaster window" for immediate BoP needs due to natural disasters where the damage is estimated to be equal to or greater than 20% of the member's GDP.

Q2. "Gold Tranche" (Reserve Tranche) refers to (2020)

- (a) a loan system of the World Bank
- (b) one of the operations of a Central Bank
- (c) a credit system granted by WTO to its members
- (d) a credit system granted by IMF to its members

Ans: (d)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

- majority of OECD members have developed countries with high-income economies
- high **Human Development Index**
- are democratic countries that support free markets.
- headquarters are located in **Paris, France**
- was founded in 1948

Goal

- goals include promoting economic development and collaboration, as well as eliminating poverty through promoting global economic stability.

Membership

- there are 38 members
- Colombia and Costa Rica were the most recent countries to join the OECD in April 2020 and May 2021, respectively.
- Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States are among the 38 member countries.

Reports Publish

International Migration Outlook.

OECD Better Life Index.



- One of the terms of membership is **OECD countries must run a free-market economy**
- The OECD is mainly for developed countries, and India is still developing. However, India is a key partner of the OECD, and it collaborates with OECD to build in various areas
- OECD-India collaboration continues to build, in areas such as anti-corruption, corporate governance, economic policy, environment, fiscal relations, as well as, responsible business conduct, steel, taxation, trade and investment.
- **China Russia and India , Brazil, South Korea is not member of OECD**

India : a key partner for the OECD

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