
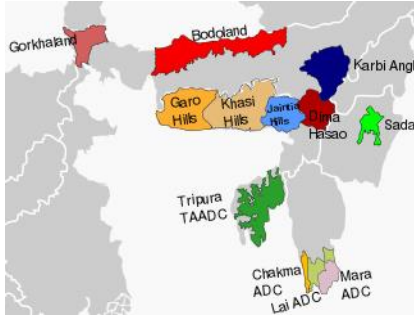




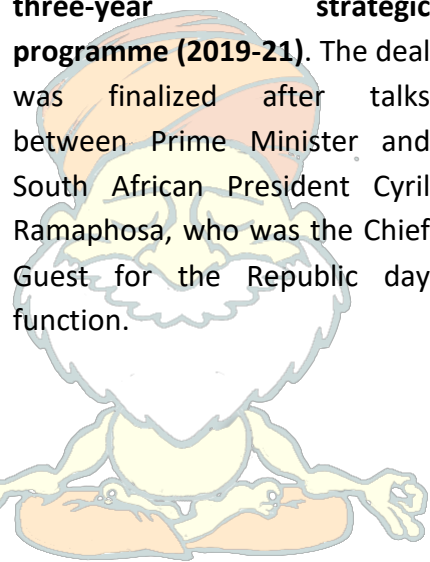



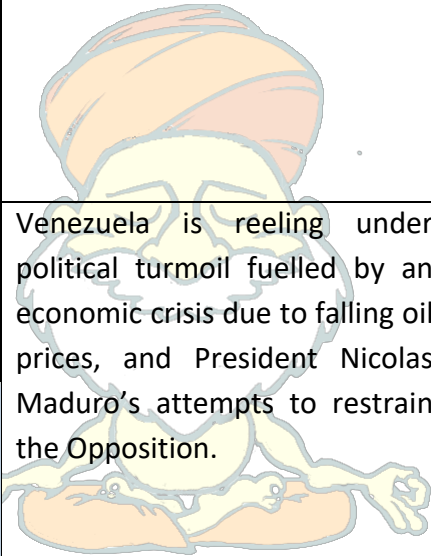

**IASBABA'S
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GEOGRAPHY HANDOUTS**

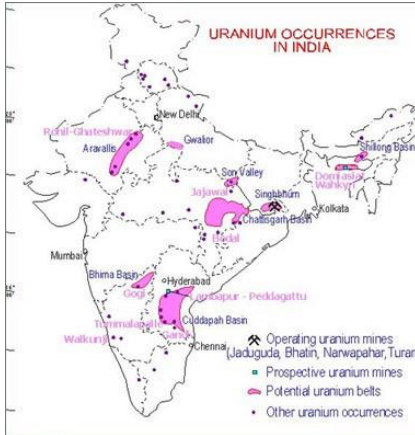
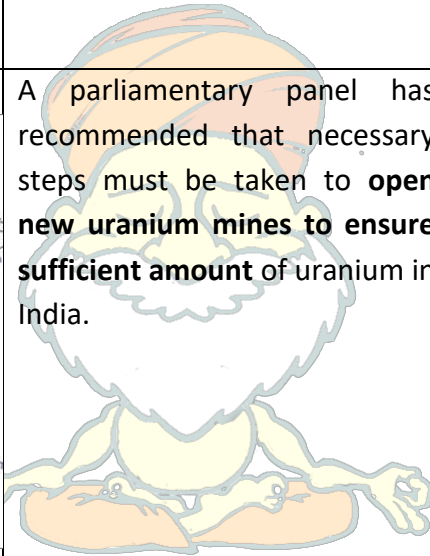
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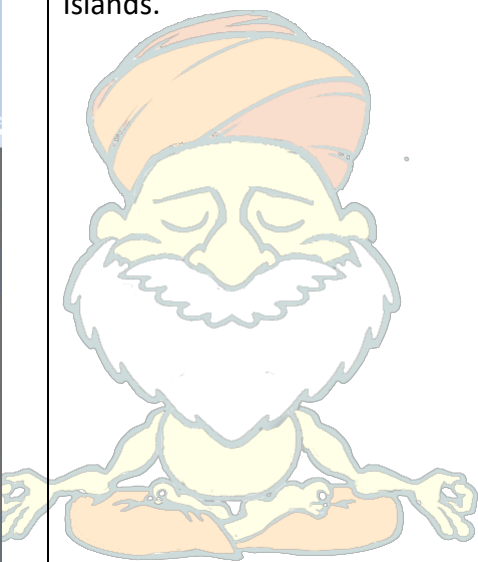
Location	Why in News?	Additional Information
<p>Mamallapuram (Tamil Nadu)</p> 	<p>The second informal summit between India and China was held here between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping.</p> <p>The First meeting was held in Wuhan in China in 2018.</p> <p>Mamallapuram, also called Mahabalipuram or Seven Pagodas, is a town that lies along the Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal, 60 km south of Chennai.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The town's religious centre was founded by a 7th-century Hindu Pallava King Narasimhavarman, also known as Mamalla for whom the town was named. It contains many surviving 7th- and 8th-century Pallava temples and monuments, chief of which are the sculptured rock relief popularly known as "Arjuna's Penance," or "Descent of the Ganges," a series of sculptured cave temples, and a Shiva temple on the seashore. The town's Five Rathas, or monolithic temples, are the remnants of seven temples, for which the town was known as Seven Pagodas. The entire assemblage collectively was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984.



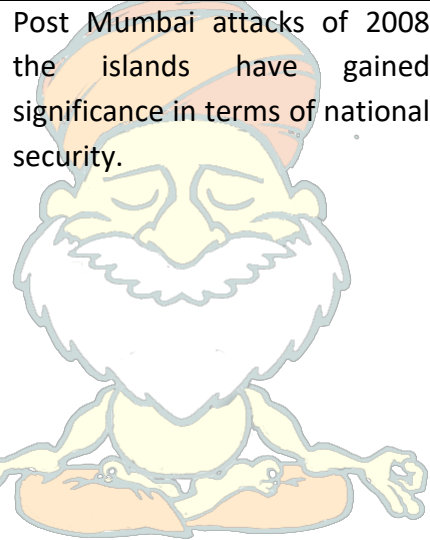
<p>Assam</p> 	<p>Assam Accord 1985</p> <p>It is a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) signed between representatives of the Government of India and the leaders of the Assam Movement.</p> <p>Assam was also in the news for protests against the Citizenship Amendment Bill (Act).</p>	<p>All those foreigners who had entered Assam between 1951 and 1961 were to be given full citizenship, including the right to vote;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those who had done so after 1971 were to be deported, Also, the entrants between 1961 and 1971 were to be denied voting rights for ten years but would enjoy all other rights of citizenship.
<p>North-east Autonomous Councils (Tribal Areas)</p> 	<p>Constitution (125th Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Rajya Sabha to increase the financial and executive powers of the 10 Autonomous Councils in the Sixth Schedule areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th schedule deals with the administration of the tribal areas in four north-eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. The tribal areas in these states have been constituted as autonomous districts, each of which has an autonomous district council consisting of 30 members.
<p>Central Asia</p>	<p>First India-Central Asia Dialogue was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan and was co-chaired by the Minister of External Affairs of India.</p> <p>The five countries of this region are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kazakhstan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India was among the first countries to recognize the five Central Asian states. It established diplomatic relations with them after they gained

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uzbekistan • Tajikistan • Kazakhstan • Turkmenistan 	<p>independence in 1990s.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India now considers the Central Asian countries as part of its 'extended and strategic neighbourhood'. • At present the five Central Asian republics account for trade of only about \$2 billion with India.
<p>South Africa</p> 	<p>India and South Africa sealed a three-year strategic programme (2019-21). The deal was finalized after talks between Prime Minister and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, who was the Chief Guest for the Republic day function.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategic programme will cover cooperation in a range of areas including defence and security, trade and investment, the blue economy, tourism, IT and agriculture. • South Africa agreed to simplify and reform South African business visa regime. Both the leaders also reiterated their commitment to working together on strengthening cooperation to address fugitive economic offenders.
<p>Gilgit-Baltistan (Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)</p>	<p>Pakistan Supreme Court declared that its powers and jurisdiction extend to the Gilgit-Baltistan region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Court has also asked the federal government in Pakistan to promulgate a new law within a

		<p>fortnight to grant more rights, including fundamental human rights, to the people of Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's stand: The region was, and would remain, an integral part of India. Such order by Supreme Court of Pakistan on Gilgit-Baltistan is an interference in India's internal affairs.
<p>Venezuela Crisis</p> 	<p>Venezuela is reeling under political turmoil fuelled by an economic crisis due to falling oil prices, and President Nicolas Maduro's attempts to restrain the Opposition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hyperinflation (extremely fast or out of control inflation) is the biggest problem faced by Venezuela. The economic crisis has also led to food shortage and hit the public health system, making medicine, equipment inaccessible to its people. The current crisis is often blamed on previous regimes' subsidies, large-scale nationalisation of companies and mismanagement of finances,

		<p>compounded by Maduro's own follies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to this a political crisis has also emerged as two factions have emerged. One supporting the opposition leader led by the U.S. and others supporting the current regime led by Russia, China. India has taken no sides till now.
<p>Uranium Mines in India</p> 	<p>A parliamentary panel has recommended that necessary steps must be taken to open new uranium mines to ensure sufficient amount of uranium in India.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently, a major portion of uranium for domestic production comes from the Jaduguda mines in Jharkhand. India currently imports uranium from Kazakhstan, Canada, France and Russia. Recently India also signed deal with Uzbekistan to get Uranium supply. In India, Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL) under the Department of Atomic Energy, is the only organisation responsible for mining and processing of uranium ore for commercial

		<p>purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uranium mined by the UCIL is used for weapons and civil nuclear programmes both. The imported uranium is used for civil nuclear energy purposes only.
<p>INS Kohassa (Andaman and Nicobar)</p>  <p>STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS</p>	<p>The Indian Navy has commissioned a new airbase, INS Kohassa, 100 miles north of Port Blair in the strategically located Andaman and Nicobar Islands.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be India's fourth air base and the third naval air facility in the archipelago. The Navy currently operates air strips at Port Blair and INS Baaz at Campbell Bay, while the Air Force has a base in Car Nicobar. The islands also house India's only tri-service command. With increased contestation in the region and in an effort to keep an eye on movements, India has considerably upgraded military infrastructure in the islands.
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	<p>Prime Minister announced renaming of 3 islands of Andaman and Nicobar archipelago as a tribute to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ross Island as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep, Neil Island as

	<p>Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.</p>	<p>Shaheed Dweep.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Havelock Island as Swaraj Dweep.
<p>Lakshadweep Islands</p> 	<p>Post Mumbai attacks of 2008 the islands have gained significance in terms of national security.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spread of these islands has bestowed upon India 20,000 sq. km. of territorial waters and approximately 400,000 sq. km. of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The lagoons and EEZ around Lakshadweep Islands have significant fishery and mineral resources which are of immense economic importance. The Nine Degree Channel, located near Lakshadweep Islands, is the most direct route for ships sailing from the Persian Gulf bound for East Asia.

Paris (France)

At UNESCO Internet Governance Forum (IGF) meeting convened in Paris, “The Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace” was commenced, aimed at developing common principles for securing cyberspace.

- The goals mentioned in the Paris Call and the principles adopted represent a consensus of priorities between states, corporations and civil society.
- Budapest convention on cybercrime is a convention of the Council of Europe is the only binding international instrument on the issue of cyber security.

Saudi Arabia




Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman visited India as a part of its 3-nation tour, including China and Pakistan.


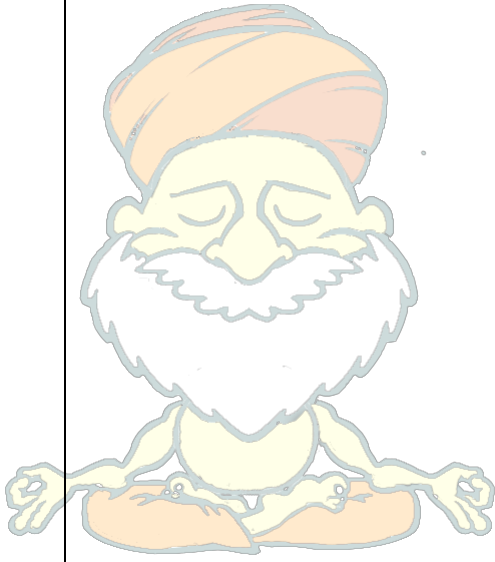

- Saudi Arabia is India's largest supplier of crude oil (~19% of the total import). India also sources ~32% of its LPG requirements from Saudi Arabia.
- Recently, Saudi Arabian oil major ARAMCO (in partnership with ADNOC of UAE) has decided to partner in Ratnagiri Refinery and Petro-Chemical Project in Maharashtra, a Joint Venture of US\$ 44 billion billed as the world's biggest.


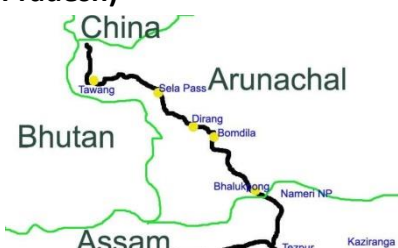


Chabahar Port (Iran)


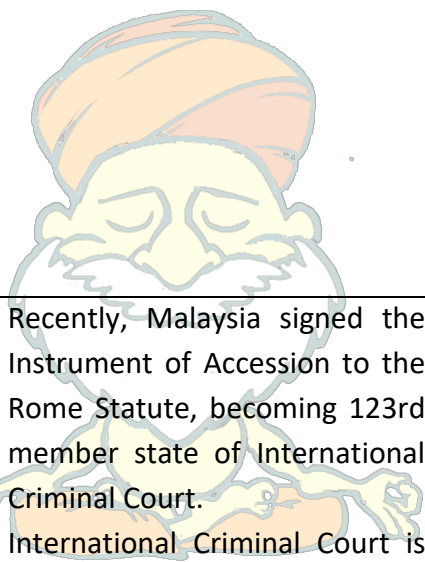

Afghanistan began exports to India through Chabahar port.


- Pakistan doesn't allow Afghan trucks to carry in return


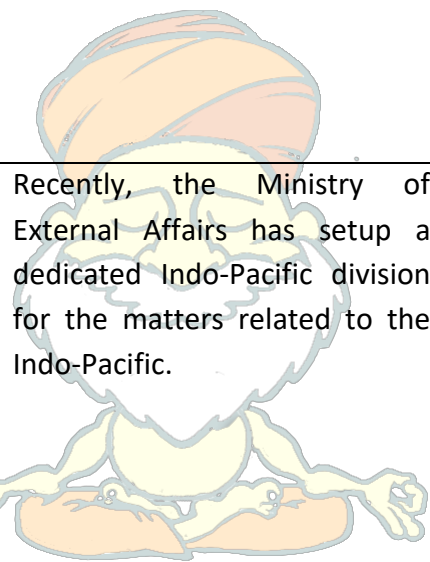
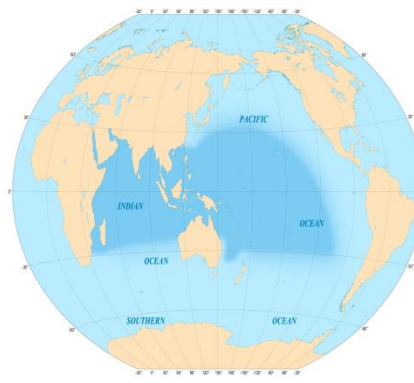
		<p>goods from India. Chabahar port can help the two countries overcome this limitation of overland trade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goods brought at the port can be easily transported to the Afghan border & distributed to different parts of Afghanistan via Zaranj-Delaram highway. • India can export the iron ore extracted from the Hajigak mines in Central Afghanistan through Chabahar port.
<p>International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC)</p> 	<p>Multi modal transport corridor signed in 2000 in St. Petersburg with Iran, Russia and India as founding members.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was expanded to include 11 new members: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Belarus, Oman, Bulgaria. • It aims to link India and Iran via the sea route and then through Iran to the Caspian Sea onwards to Central Asia.
<p>Mauritius (Indian Ocean)</p>	<p>International Court of Justice in an advisory opinion asked Britain to handover Chagos</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British government has rejected the opinion as it said

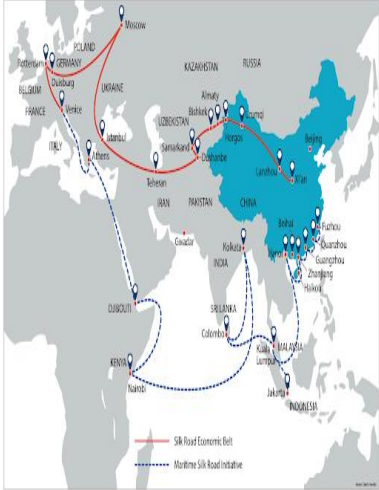

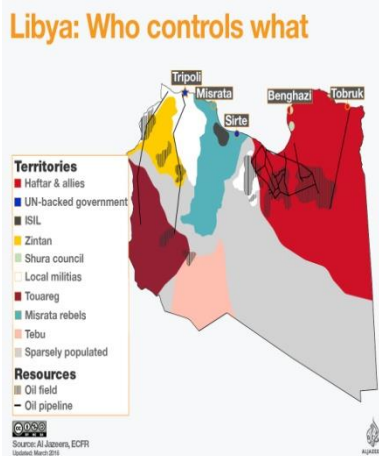
	<p>Archipelago to complete the process of decolonization of Mauritius.</p> 	<p>that ICJ has no jurisdiction to deliberate on this matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mauritius has maintained that Britain's "unilateral" decision to ban the right of return of Chagossians (African Tribe) and to renew the lease for the US base on Diego Garcia, one of the Chagos Islands, breached international law. Mauritius proposed a resolution in UN General Assembly in 2016 to take Britain to the international court of justice in a dispute over sovereignty of the Chagos Islands. India supported it.
<p>Hindu-Kush Mountains (Himalayas)</p> 	<p>The Kathmandu-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development's (ICIMOD) "Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment" reveals that more than one-third of the glaciers in the region could retreat by 2100, even if the global temperature rise is capped at 1.5°C.</p>	<p>Hindu-Kush mountains, along with Tien Shan mountains in Central Asia, represents the largest area of permanent ice cover outside the two poles of our globe, and is thus referred to as the 'third pole'.</p>
<p>Kelp Forests</p>	<p>According to a recent study,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally speaking,



	<p>Climate change could lead to decline of underwater kelp forests.</p> <p>Kelps are large brown algae seaweeds. They grow in "underwater forests" (kelp forests) in shallow oceans.</p>	<p>helps live further from the tropics than coral reefs, mangrove forests, and warm-water seagrass beds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although kelp forests are unknown in tropical surface waters, a few species have been known to occur exclusively in tropical deep waters.
<p>Sela Tunnel (Arunachal Pradesh)</p> 	<p>Recently, the foundation stone for the Sela Tunnel Project was laid.</p> 	<p>It is being built by the Border Roads Organization to provide all weather connectivity to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh and other forward areas.</p>
<p>Russia</p> 	<p>India has recently signed a \$3-billion deal with Russia for leasing a nuclear-powered submarine for the Indian Navy. Under the pact, Russia will have to deliver the Akula class submarine, Christened as Chakra III, to the Indian Navy by 2025 for a period of 10 years.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the third Russian nuclear-powered submarine to be leased to Indian Navy. Earlier, Chakra I was leased in 1988 and Chakra II was leased in 2012. The lease of Chakra II is likely to be extended to 2027 till the new vessel gets build and tested. The deal includes refurbishment of the submarine with the Indian communication and sensor systems, spares support and

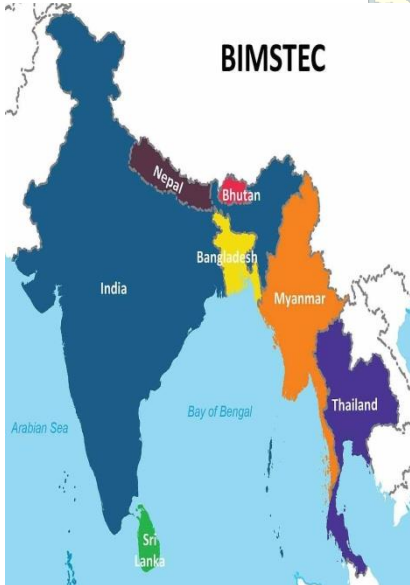
		training technical infrastructure for its operations.
Abu Dhabi (UAE) 	<p>Recently for the first time India's External Affairs Minister, attended the inaugural plenary of the 46th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC).</p> 	<p>"Abu Dhabi declaration" was named "Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together" and it seeks to encourage stronger relationships between people to promote coexistence among peoples and to confront extremism and its negative impacts. The OIC refrained from giving in to Pakistan's demands to include Kashmir issue in the final declaration.</p>
Malaysia 	<p>Recently, Malaysia signed the Instrument of Accession to the Rome Statute, becoming 123rd member state of International Criminal Court.</p> <p>International Criminal Court is the first permanent, treaty-based, International criminal court, with jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for international crimes of genocide, crimes against Humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in 2002 and governed by the Rome Statute, which was adopted in 1998. It has territorial jurisdiction over nations that are party to the Rome Statute or have accepted the court's jurisdiction. It is an independent judicial body distinct from the UN. It works in cooperation with UN, reports annually to the UNGA and also hear cases referred to by



		<p>UNSC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is located in The Hague, The Netherlands. India is not a member of ICC (neither signed nor ratified).
<p>Golan Heights (Syria)</p> 	<p>US President has officially recognised Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Golan Heights, seized from Syria in 1967.</p> <p>The Golan Heights are a 1,200 square kilometre plateau on the Israel-Syria border, which were part of Syria until 1967, when Israel captured it in Six Day War of 1967.</p>	<p>In 1981 Israel passed a law extending its jurisdiction to Golan Heights, effectively annexing it. However, UNSC resolution 497, adopted in December 1981, declared that the Israeli Golan Heights Law "null and void and without international legal effect" and further called on Israel to rescind its action.</p>
<p>Xuzhou (China)</p>	<p>Recently India's National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) entered into a partnership with China's Xuzhou city (Jiangsu Province) to help develop India's 3rd IT corridor in China.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NASSCOM has already launched two such IT corridors at Dalian, India's first IT hub in China (in Liaoning Province) and Guiyang (in Guizhou province) to tap the burgeoning Chinese IT industry market. The first two corridors have paved the way for cooperation in co-create mode in the emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things



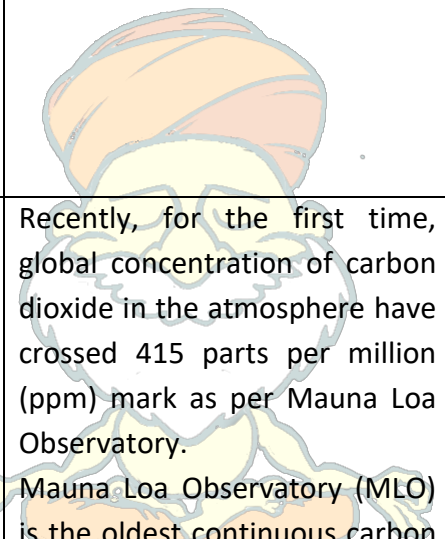

		and Analytics in the Chinese market.
Israel world's longest salt caves 	<p>Cave explorers have discovered the world's longest salt cave (around 10 km) named Malham in the Mount Sodom, Israel. Earlier 3 N cave in southern Iran's Qeshm island was the longest salt cave in the world with length of 6 km. Related information</p> 	<p>Similar caves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mammoth Cave system in Kentucky, US, is the longest in the world stretching for about 651.8 kilometers. • The longest natural cave in India is Krem Liat Prah in the Jaintia Hills, which is 30.9 km.
Indo-Pacific Region 	<p>Recently, the Ministry of External Affairs has setup a dedicated Indo-Pacific division for the matters related to the Indo-Pacific.</p>	<p>The "Indo-Pacific" idea was originally conceived in 2006- 07. The term 'Indo-Pacific' combines the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and the Western Pacific Region (WP) – inclusive of the contiguous seas off East Asia and Southeast Asia – into a singular regional construct.</p>
Belt and Road Forum	<p>The second Belt and Road Forum (BRF) was recently held in Beijing, two years after first forum was held in May 2017.</p> <p>In the wake of the global slowdown, BRI offers a new model of development to China to maintain its economic growth. OBOR envisions building networks of roadways,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BRI announced in 2013, is made up of a "belt" of overland routes and a maritime "road", which aims to connect Asia, Europe and Africa. • The Belt refers to the Silk Road Economic Belt which comprises

	<p>railways, maritime ports, power grids, oil and gas pipelines, associated infrastructure projects which helps Chinese economy.</p>	<p>overland routes: connecting China, Central Asia, Russia and Europe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Road refers to the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road designed to provide an impetus to trade from China to Europe through the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean, and from China through the South China Sea towards the South Pacific.
<p>Strait of Hormuz (Iran)</p> 	<p>USA has imposed sanctions on Iran, and on other countries who trade with them. In response, Iran has threatened to shut down the Strait of Hormuz, a key channel for global oil shipments.</p>	<p>The United States officially designated Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a foreign terrorist organization. There were also drone attacks on the Saudi Arabian Aramco's oil refinery alleged by the Iranian forces.</p>
<p>Libya Crisis</p> <p>Libya: Who controls what</p> 	<p>India has evacuated its entire peacekeeping CRPF contingent from Tripoli in Libya. Libya is currently split broadly between two administrations, the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) under prime minister Fayeze Al Sarraj, which is based in the capital Tripoli, and the House of Representatives based in the eastern town of Tobruk. Recently the eastern Libyan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The crisis in Libya began after the 'Arab Spring' protests engulfed Libya along with other countries in the region including Tunisia and Egypt in early 2011. The long-ruling dictator Muammar Gaddafi was ousted after a bloody battle and finally killed in

	<p>Army Commander Khalifa Haftar ordered his forces, the Libyan National Army (LNA), to take over Tripoli — the capital of the United Nations-backed government (Government of National Accord) — amid reports of escalating political tension in the country.</p>	<p>October 2011 bringing a brutal regime to an end.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Arab Spring was a series of pro-democracy uprisings that enveloped several largely Muslim countries, including Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Libya, Egypt and Bahrain.
<p>Qatar (Gulf region)</p> 	<p>Recently UN's International Labour Organization announced that Qatar is all set to abolish its controversial Exit visa system for all foreign workers by the end of 2019. About 1.2 million foreign workers in Qatar, mostly from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and the Philippines, make up 94 percent of the total labor force.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kafala system emerged in the 1950's to regulate the relationship between employers and migrant workers in many countries in West Asia. Under this system a migrant worker's immigration status is legally bound to an individual employer or sponsor (kafeel) for their contract period.
<p>Kaziranga National Park (Assam)</p> 	<p>The Supreme Court has banned all mining activities along the Kaziranga National Park and catchment area of rivers originating in Karbi Anglong Hills in Assam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kaziranga National Park was formed in 1908 the park is located on the edge of the Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspots - in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is world's major stronghold of the Indian onehorned rhino, having the single largest population of this species, currently estimated at over 2,000 animals (approximately 2/3rd of their total world

	<p>the Golaghat and Nagaon districts of Assam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The southern border of the park is roughly defined by the Mora Diphlu River. Further south are the hills of Barail and the Mikir. • The Brahmaputra River constitutes the dynamically changing Northern boundary of the park. • The other rivers in Kaziranga are Diphlu and Mora Dhansiri. 	<p>population).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With increase in tiger population every year, the government authorities declared Kaziranga as a Tiger Reserve in the year 2006. • In the year 1985, the park was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. • Also, the park is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for the conservation of avifaunal species.
<p>Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)</p> 	<p>BIMSTEC leaders were invited for Prime Minister's swearing in ceremony. This is seen as indicator of India's policy of engaging neighbours and keeping Pakistan out as in 2014 SAARC leaders were invited for the swearing in ceremony.</p>	<p>Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional group of seven members: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan, and Nepal, established in 1997 through Bangkok Declaration. Founding members are Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Tensions between India and Pakistan have led to New Delhi shifting focus from SAARC to BIMSTEC.</p>
<p>South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation</p>	<p>SAARC, as an organisation, reflects the South Asian identity</p>	<p>South Asian countries are closely tied in their</p>

<p>(SAARC)</p> 	<p>of the countries, historically and contemporarily. It has geographical identity. Equally, there is a cultural, linguistic, religious and culinary affinity that defines South Asia. Though there have been delays in regular SAARC summits, there are mechanisms of interaction within SAARC- South Asian University, South Asia Satellite which keep SAARC relevant.</p>	<p>socio-political state as they face similar threats and challenges like terrorism, similar economic challenges, disaster etc. To face such challenges, the South Asian countries must cooperate.</p>
<p>Arctic Region (Arctic Council)</p> 	<p>Recently, India was re-elected as an Observer (first it became in 2013) to the Arctic Council. Arctic Council was established by the eight Arctic States through the Ottawa Declaration of 1996. These are— Canada, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States. It is not a formalized treaty-based international legal entity and does not allocate resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six organisations representing the indigenous people of the Arctic region have also been granted the status of permanent participants in the Council. • All decision-making happens through consensus between the permanent members. • The Council does not prohibit the commercial exploitation of resources in the Arctic.
<p>Christchurch Call to Action</p>	<p>Recently, a document called "Christchurch Call to Action" was signed and adopted with participation from 26 nations, including India. The initiative was taken up by the governments of France and New Zealand along with top</p>	<p>It outlines collective, voluntary commitments from governments and online service providers intended to address the issue of violent extremist content online and to prevent abuse of the</p>

	<p>social media companies after the Christchurch attacks to combat online extremism and secure the Internet.</p>	<p>internet, while maintaining international human right laws. The signatories include France, New Zealand, and India among others. US declined to join the Call.</p>
<p>Aqaba (Jordan)</p> 	<p>Aqaba Process was established by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to counter radicalization and extremism in Arab World and promote moderate Islam.</p> 	
<p>Mauna Loa (Hawaii)</p> 	<p>Recently, for the first time, global concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere have crossed 415 parts per million (ppm) mark as per Mauna Loa Observatory. Mauna Loa Observatory (MLO) is the oldest continuous carbon dioxide (CO₂) measurement station in the world situated in Hawaii.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The observatory is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL) Global Monitoring Division (GMD). Keeling Curve is a graph of the accumulation of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere based on continuous measurements taken at the Mauna Loa Observatory.
<p>Basel (Switzerland)</p>	<p>Recently, 2019 joint Conferences of the Parties to the Basel (COP-14), Rotterdam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed



Rotterdam (Netherlands)

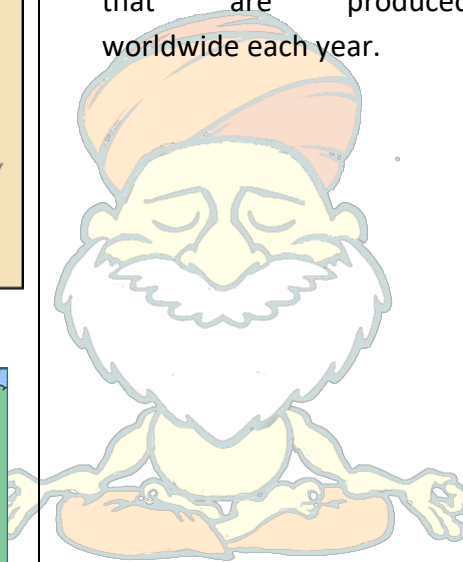


Stockholm (Sweden)



(COP-09) and Stockholm (COP09) convention was held in Geneva.

- **Basel Convention** on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal It was created to address concerns over the management, disposal, and transboundary movement of the estimated 400 million tonnes of hazardous wastes that are produced worldwide each year.



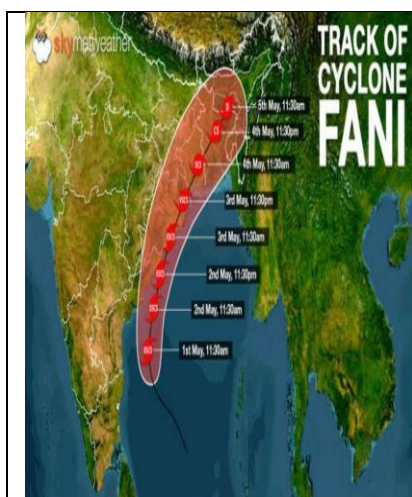
Consent Procedure (PIC) for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. It's jointly administered by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UN Environment (UNEP).

- **Stockholm Convention** on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP) is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods (POP), become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment.

Cyclone Fani

Extremely severe cyclonic Fani recently hit the Odisha coast. With sustained winds of 240 kmph, the storm was the equivalent of a Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is a 1 to 5 rating based on a hurricane's sustained wind speed. This scale estimates potential property



damage.

Hurricanes reaching Category 3 and higher are considered major hurricanes because of their potential for significant loss of life and damage.

Algeria



Recently, Algeria and Argentina have been officially recognized by WHO as malaria-free.

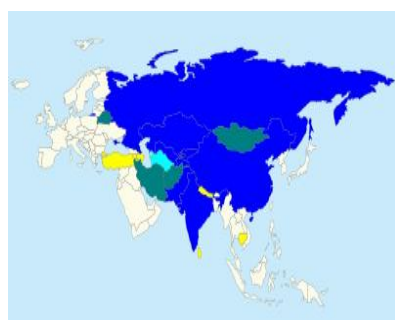


Certification is granted when a country proves that it has interrupted indigenous transmission of the disease for at least 3 consecutive years. Globally, a total of 38 countries and territories have now been declared malaria-free, with Maldives and Sri Lanka achieving status in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Argentina



SCO Members



Recently, the countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation adopted the Bishkek Declaration in 19th SCO summit, held at Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek.

SCO is a Eurasian political, economic, and military

Currently, SCO has 8 Member States - China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan; 4 Observer States - Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

organisation. Along with BRICS, SCO is seen as an attempt by China & Russia to challenge the Western dominated global order and counter balances the activities of United States and NATO in Central Asia.

Mongolia and 6 Dialogue Partners - Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey and Sri Lanka.

Official working languages of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation are Chinese and Russian.

It has two permanent bodies — the SCO Secretariat based in Beijing and the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) based in Tashkent.

Osaka, Japan

Recently, the 14th G-20 summit was held in Osaka, Japan.

The G20 Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy is held every year to discuss the critical issues affecting the global economy.




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




ASEAN region

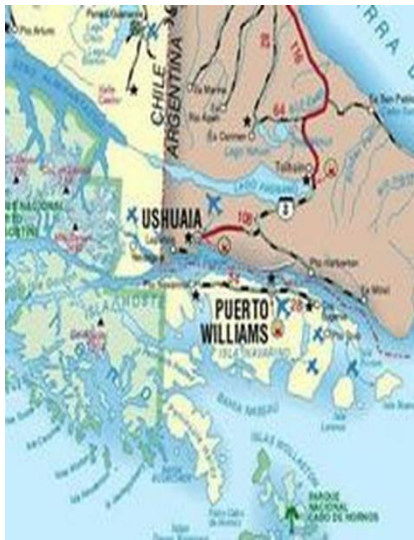

Recently, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has adopted the 'ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific'.

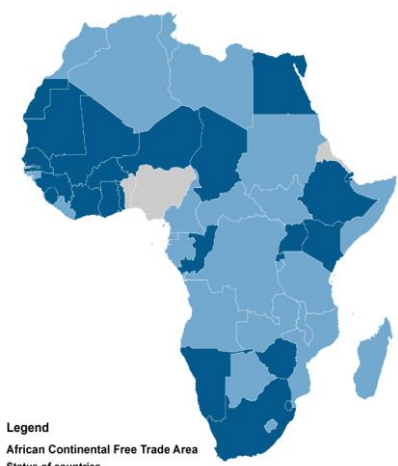
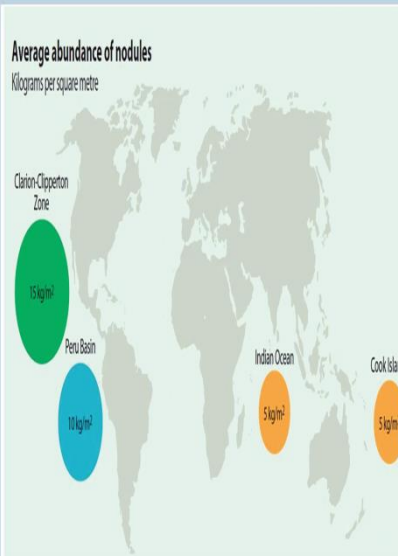
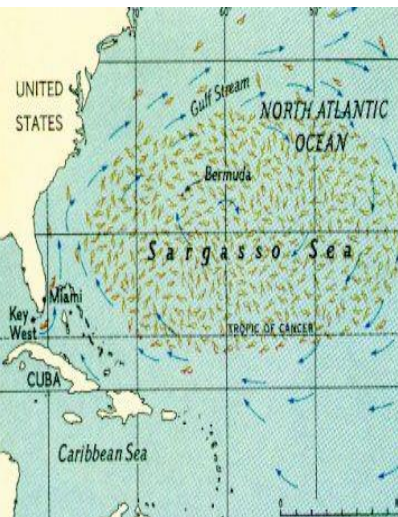
The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional grouping that promotes economic, political,

Countries like USA, Australia, France, India and Japan had come up with their own individual visions and strategies for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. The primary push for finally concluding the 'ASEAN

 <p>VectorStock® VectorStock.com/25503358</p>	<p>and security cooperation among its ten members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.</p>	<p>Outlook on the Indo-Pacific' came with the growing US China trade war as economies of many Southeast Asian countries has been affected negatively.</p>
<p>Kaleshwaram, Telangana</p> 	<p>The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation project was inaugurated recently in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district of Telangana. Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation (KLIP) Project will be world's largest multi-stage, multipurpose lift irrigation. It is being built across Godavari river.</p>	<p>Lift irrigation is a method of irrigation in which water instead of being transported by natural flow (as in gravity-fed canal systems) requires external energy through animal, fuel based or electric power using pumps or other mechanical means. The advantage of lift irrigation is the minimal land acquisition problem and low-water losses.</p>
<p>Versailles, France</p>  <p>© 2009 EB, Inc. ★ World Heritage Site</p>	<p>28th June 2019 marked the 100th anniversary of Treaty of Versailles, signed on 28th June 1919 between Germany & Allied Powers that brought World War I to an end.</p>	<p>The treaty was a consequence of six months of Allied negotiations at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919. The provisions of the treaty were majorly decided by Britain (under David Lloyd George), France (under</p>

		Georges Clemenceau) and USA (under Woodrow Wilson). Both Russia and Germany were not given representation at the conference.
Persian Gulf 	Indian Navy launched Operation Sankalp in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to reassure Indian flagged vessels transiting through strategic shipping lane between Strait of Hormuz, Persian/ Arabian Gulf Region are safe following the recent maritime incidents in the region.	INS Chennai and INS Sunayna have been deployed in the region to undertake maritime security operations. In addition, aerial surveillance in the area is also being done by Indian Navy aircraft.
Mount Etna 	Mount Etna in southern Italy and Mount Sinabung volcano in Sumatra Island of western Indonesia erupted recently.	Mount Etna: is an active composite volcano on the east coast of Sicily, Italy. It lies above the convergent plate margin between the African Plate and the Eurasian Plate.
Mount Sinabung 		Mount Sinabung: It is a composite volcano in the Karo plateau of Karo Regency, North Sumatra, Indonesia. Indonesia has nearly 130 active volcanoes, more than any other country.
Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)	It is a proposed pact between 10 ASEAN economies and six others (New Zealand, Australia, China, India, Japan, and South	The objective of launching RCEP negotiations is to achieve a modern,

	<p>Korea) with which the grouping currently has FTAs.</p> <p>India recently backed out of the treaty citing domestic concerns.</p>	<p>comprehensive, high quality, and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement among the ASEAN Member States and ASEAN's FTA partners.</p>
<p>Argentina/Chile</p> 	<p>Puerto Williams has been upgraded to the category of "city" by Chilean authorities, making it the world's southernmost city.</p>	<p>Earlier Ushuaia, in Argentina was the southernmost city.</p>
<p>North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)</p>  <p>shutterstock.com • 1485184106</p>	<p>The US Senate has passed a binding legislation to accord India the same status as its other NATO allies — South Korea, Japan and Australia.</p> <p>It follows the agreements like</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) • Communications, Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) 	<p>It will be part of the National Defense Authorisation Act for the current fiscal 2020. The legislation paves the way for improved maritime security and advanced technology transfer between the two countries.</p>
<p>African Continental Free Trade Agreement</p>	<p>Recently, the 12th Summit of the African Union (AU) saw 54 of 55 of its member states signing the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) for goods and services, with, 27 countries ratifying it.</p>	<p>The AfCFTA would be world's largest FTA as it would eventually create an African Common Market of 1.2 billion people and a GDP of over \$3.4 billion having a global impact. The Free</p>

 <p>Legend African Continental Free Trade Area Status of countries Unsigned Signed Ratified</p>		<p>Trade zone should be operational from July 2020, as countries needed time to adapt to the agreed changes.</p>
<p>Polymetallic Nodules in Oceans</p>  <p>Average abundance of nodules Kilograms per square metre</p> <p>Clarion-Clipperton Zone (15 kg/m²) Peru Basin (10 kg/m²) Indian Ocean (5 kg/m²) Cook Islands (5 kg/m²)</p>	<p>India will launch its ambitious 'Deep Ocean Mission' by October, 2019 to enter hitherto untapped 75,000 sq km of area in international waters to tap vast marine resources.</p> <p>India is the first country to have received the status of a pioneer investor in 1987 and was allocated an exclusive area in Central Indian Ocean Basin by United Nations (UN) for exploration and utilization of nodules.</p>	<p>Polymetallic nodules, also called manganese nodules, are rock concretions formed of concentric layers of iron and manganese hydroxides around a core. It has been estimated that 380 Million Metric Tonnes of PMN are available at the bottom of the seas in the Central Indian Ocean.</p>
<p>Sargosso Sea</p>  <p>UNITED STATES Gulf Stream NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN Bermuda Sargasso Sea TROPIC OF CANCER Key West MIAMI CUBA Caribbean Sea STATUTE MILES AT 30° NORTH</p>	<p>Recently it was found that Sargasso seaweed algae belt is increasingly growing in Sargosso Sea. It is named for a genus of free-floating seaweed called Sargassum.</p> <p>The Sargasso Sea is a spawning site for threatened and endangered eels, as well as white marlin, porbeagle shark, and dolphinfish. Humpback whales annually migrate through the Sargasso Sea.</p>	<p>The Sargasso Sea lies within the Northern Atlantic Subtropical Gyre. While all other seas in the world are defined at least in part by land boundaries, the Sargasso Sea is defined only by ocean currents.</p>

Mekong-Ganga Cooperation

Recently, the 10th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting (10th MGC MM) was held in Bangkok, Thailand.

It is an initiative by six countries – India and five ASEAN countries, namely, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam for cooperation in tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communications.

It was launched in 2000 at Vientiane, Laos. Both the Ganga and the Mekong are civilizational rivers, and the MGC initiative aims to facilitate closer contacts among the people inhabiting these two major river basins. It is also indicative of the cultural and commercial linkages among the member countries of the MGC down the centuries.

G-7 Group

Recently, India was invited as a special guest for attending the 45th G-7 Summit in France. About G-7 It is an intergovernmental organisation that was formed in 1975.

Way to remember: FCGURUJI minus R (Russia)

Initially it was formed as an effort by the US and its allies to discuss economic issues, which included battling a global oil crisis. The G7 or 'Group of Seven' are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States which discuss issues such as global economic governance, international security, and energy policy.




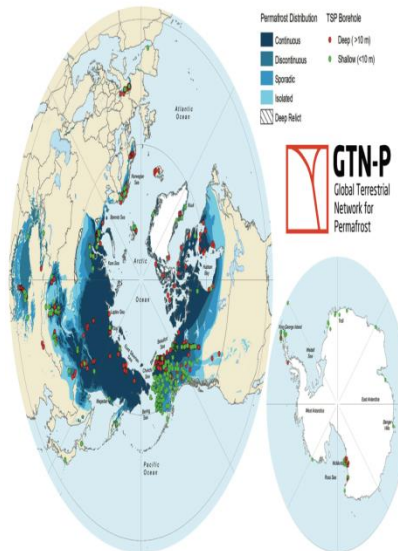
Ken-Betwa River-interlinking Project.





Recently, the Union Government has approved the Kosi-Mechi river-interlinking project.

It is the country's second major river interlinking project after Ken-Betwa of Madhya Pradesh.

This interlinking project envisages diversion of part of surplus water of Kosi river through existing Hanuman Nagar barrage to the Mahananda basin. Mechi is an important tributary of Mahananda

<p>The Ken-Betwa River Linking Project</p>  <p>Source: National Water Development Agency</p>		<p>river. Its basin however remains mostly deficient in providing adequate water for irrigation.</p>
<p>Hong Kong</p> 	<p>Hong Kong has seen months of protests sparked by a controversial plan to allow extraditions to mainland China. These protests have brought into focus the "one country, two systems" deal under which Hong Kong is governed. When Hong Kong was handed over to China in 1997 by Britain, both sides agreed that the city would remain a semi-autonomous region under the Basic Law, its mini-Constitution, for 50 years.</p>	<p>The Basic Law provides people in Hong Kong more political freedoms than their counterparts in mainland China. There is a relatively free press, an unregulated Internet and a less-controlled judiciary in Hong Kong. But China has increasingly tried to exert its influence on the city in recent years, raising concerns of the city's pro-democracy groups. The protest movement is leaderless. Protesters are now demanding greater democracy and an inquiry into alleged police brutality during past demonstrations.</p>
<p>Quadrilateral (QUAD)</p>	<p>Recently, the four-way dialogue between the US, Japan, India and Australia - for a free and open Indo-Pacific - was held at the foreign minister's level for the first time on the side-lines of the UN General Assembly.</p>	<p>This meeting is a "significant elevation" of the dialogue efforts by the partners countries to advance cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region as the Quadrilateral has</p>

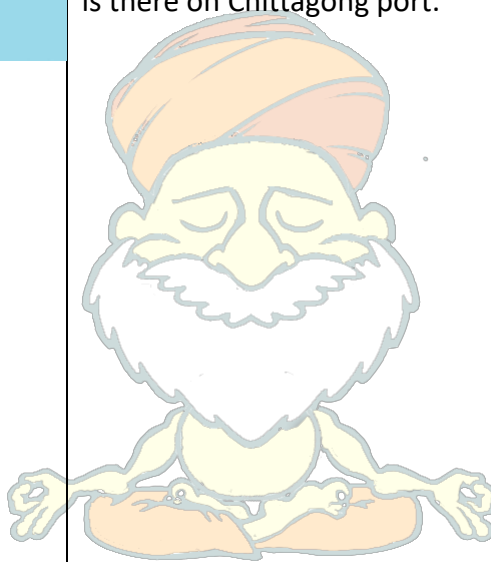
	<p>The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (also known as the Quad) is currently an informal but increasingly being formalised, strategic dialogue between the United States, Japan, Australia and India.</p>	<p>so far met at the level of Joint Secretary-rank officials only.</p>
<p>Far-East Region (Russia)</p> 	<p>Recently, the 20th India-Russia annual summit and the fifth meeting of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) was held in Vladivostok, Russia.</p> 	<p>The focus of the visit was on the development of the Far East for which India has extended a \$1 billion line of credit. The Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) established in 2015 aims to support the economic development of Russia's Far East, and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.</p>
<p>Cryosphere</p> 	<p>Recently the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) was released.</p>	<p>The cryosphere refers to frozen components of the Earth system that are at or below the land and ocean surface. These include "snow, glaciers, ice sheets, ice shelves, icebergs, sea ice, lake ice, river ice, permafrost and seasonally frozen ground".</p>
<p>Alps Mountain Range</p>	<p>Recently, people came out to generate awareness regarding an Alps glacier the "Pizol", in</p>	<p>Recently, Iceland also commemorated Okjokull, the island's</p>

	<p>the northeastern Switzerland, which has lost about 80 to 90% of its volume since 2006 due to global warming.</p>	<p>first glacier lost to climate change.</p>
<p>Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra</p> 	<p>Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra received 7,175.4 mm rain as against Mawsynram's 6,218.4 mm, Cherrapunji received around 6,082.7 mm rainfall as per the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Five rivers originate from Mahabaleshwar, including east flowing river Krishna its tributaries Koyna, Venna, and Gayatri and west flowing Savitri which empties in Arabian sea</p>	<p>The heavy rain in and around Mahabaleshwar was because of the low pressure that had formed over West Bengal, Odisha and the movement of this system towards Central India strengthened SouthWest monsoon.</p>
<p>South Africa</p> 	<p>Recently, a new mineral, Goldschmidtite, has been discovered inside a diamond unearthed from a mine in South Africa. The mineral has an unusual chemical signature for a mineral from Earth's mantle.</p>	<p>Goldschmidtite has high concentrations of niobium, potassium and the rare-earth elements lanthanum and cerium, whereas the rest of the mantle is dominated by other elements, such as magnesium and iron.</p>
<p>United Kingdom (UK)</p> 	<p>India and the UK have agreed to set up three new bilateral working groups to tackle barriers to trade in specific sectors of food and drink, healthcare and data services as part of the 13th Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) meeting.</p>	<p>United Kingdom consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • England • Wales • Northern Ireland • Scotland

String of Pearls

Pakistan- China is working on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which even passes through the Indian territory under Pakistan's occupation. Chinese presence is there on Gwadar port.

Bangladesh- As a member of China's Belt and Road Initiative, Bangladesh has seen an influx of Chinese investment in recent times. China has become Bangladesh's top source for arms imports. Chinese presence is there on Chittagong port.



Sri Lanka- Recently, China has donated a frigate to the Sri Lankan Navy, credit to procure China-made counterinsurgency equipment among other areas. Chinese presence is there on Hambantota Port.




Maldives- China owns around 70 per cent of the Maldives' debt. Maldives signed China's Belt and Road Initiative, changed laws to lease out several prime islands to China, and allowed Beijing to build an observation post in Makunudhoo, which is not far from India.



Myanmar- There is a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between both countries. Chinese presence is there on Cocos Island.

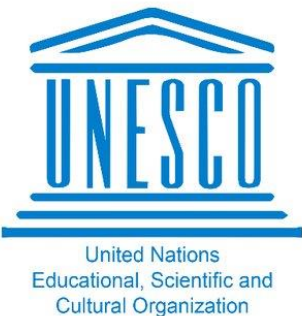

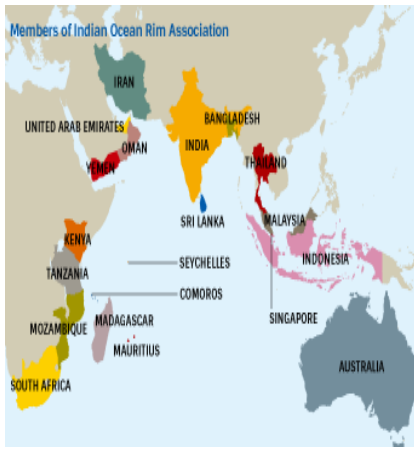
Baku, Azerbaijan


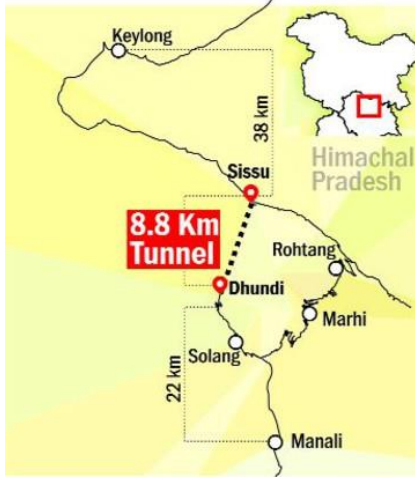


Recently, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu attended the 18th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit at Baku in Azerbaijan. This is the second time in a row that PM Narendra Modi has skipped the summit, marking India's transformation from a non-aligned country to one which is supposedly multialigned. This is seen as indication that NAM is losing relevance in present global

The Non-Aligned Movement was formed during the Cold War as an organization of States that did not seek to formally align themselves with either the United States or the Soviet Union, but sought to remain independent or neutral.


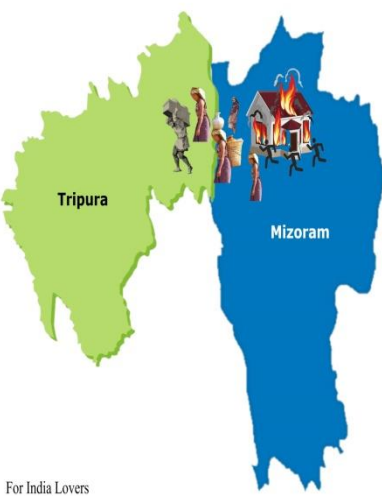
<p>Ethiopia and Eritrea</p>  <p>Source: Oxford Analytica</p>	<p>order.</p> <p>The Nobel Peace Prize 2019 is awarded to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali "for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation, and in particular for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring Eritrea."</p>	<p>Ethiopia and Eritrea, long-time foes, restored relations in July 2018 after years of hostility.</p>
<p>Kurds and Kurdistan</p> 	<p>Recently Turkey attacked Kurdish-run territory in northern Syria. The Turkish government fears Kurd-dominated forces in Syria will link up with Kurdish rebels in Turkey, who have been fighting for a breakaway state for decades.</p>	<p>The Kurds are the world's largest stateless ethnic group. They live in the highlands of southern and eastern Turkey, northern Iraq, the north-eastern Syria, north-western Iran, and parts of south Armenia, and are a minority in each of these countries. Small communities live in Georgia, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, and eastern Iran as well.</p>
<p>Rohingya Refugee Issue</p> 	<p>Around 6000-7000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh are to be relocated to the newly built camp on the Bhashan Char Island, Bangladesh. Bhashan Char, also known as Thengar Char, is located in the Bay of Bengal.</p>	<p>The island was formed with the Himalayan silt in 2006 on the mouth of river Meghna. Rohingyas are ethnic group, largely comprising Muslims, found in Rakhine state of Myanmar. Myanmar Nationality Law 1982 denied citizenship to Rohingya population.</p>
<p>Thailand</p>	<p>Recently, the Culture Department of Uttar Pradesh</p>	<p>Khon Masked Dance Drama in Thailand is a</p>


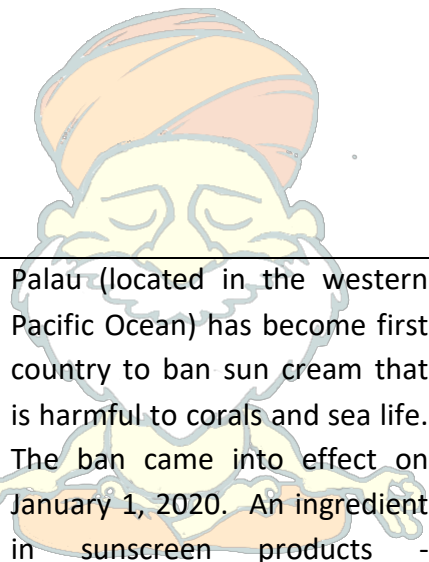

	<p>government organised the country's first training and performance programme of KHON Ramlila in collaboration with Thailand government. Khon Ramlila of Thailand is included in the list of UNESCO's Intangible cultural heritage.</p>	<p>performing art which involve graceful dance movements, instrumental and vocal renditions and glittering costumes that depict the glory of Rama. It has no dialogues and background voices narrate the whole story of Ramayana.</p>
<p>BRICS</p> 	<p>Recently 11th BRICS Summit was held in Brasilia, Brazil with the theme "Economic Growth for an Innovative Future." A British economist Jim O'Neill had coined the acronym "BRIC" in 2001, identifying four high growth economies that could dominate the world by 2050. Later in 2010, South Africa became the 5th member of the grouping making it BRICS.</p>	<p>New Development Bank (NDB) is BRICS most tangible achievement. Every BRICS country contributes equally to its capital and has equal voting rights. The Contingent Reserve Arrangement as an alternative to the IMF; the Global Financial Messaging System (GFMS) created by the Bank of Russia as a safeguard against entire states being weaned off from SWIFT.</p>
<p>UNESCO's Creative Cities Network</p>	<p>UNESCO has announced that Mumbai and Hyderabad have been included amongst the 66 cities selected in its network of 'Creative Cities' on the occasion of World Cities Day 2019. Mumbai has been designated as Creative City of Films and</p>	<p>The initiative was created in 2004 to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.</p>



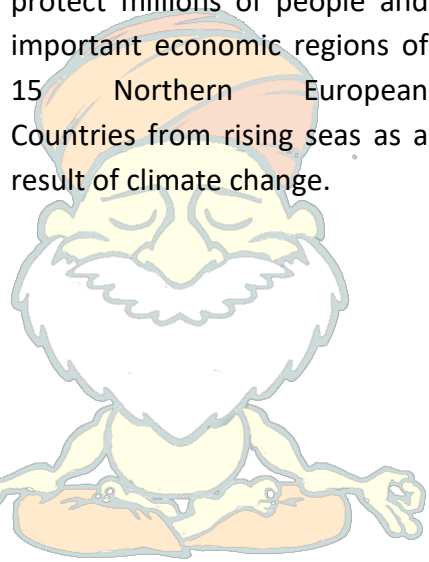

	<p>Hyderabad a Creative City of Gastronomy.</p> <p>Earlier, Chennai and Varanasi were selected UNESCO cities of music while Jaipur is the City of Crafts and Folk Arts.</p>	<p>The Network covers seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature, Music.</p>
<p>Palestine (Golan Heights, West Bank, Gaza strip)</p> 	<p>Recently, India released third section of funding worth \$3 million for the construction of a Palestine India Techno Park.</p> <p>The techno park is to create business environment and culture that will enable knowledge-based and creative enterprises as well as technology clusters to successfully operate locally, regionally and globally.</p>	<p>India's investment towards the park is part of an agreement signed for setting up of a techno park with Indian grant of \$12 million, which is to be released \$3 million on a half-yearly basis.</p>
<p>IORA</p> 	<p>Recently, 6th Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) was held in Delhi. The IOD is a flagship initiative of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). It is a Track 1.5 discussion, encouraging an open and free flowing dialogue by academia and officials on strategic issues of the Indian Ocean Region.</p>	<p>Indian Ocean Rim Association is an intergovernmental organisation aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region. The Association has 22 member states and 9 dialogue partners.</p>
<p>Portugal</p>	<p>Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa recently announced setting up of a Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize. The prize would be inspired by Gandhi's thoughts and quotes and will be given</p>	<p>The first edition of the prize would be dedicated to animal welfare.</p>

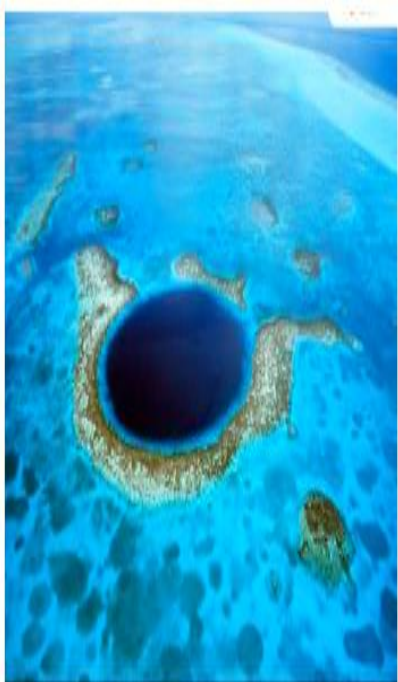
	every year.	
<p>Atal Tunnel</p> 	<p>Recently, Prime Minister named Rohtang tunnel as Atal Tunnel. Rohtang tunnel is 8.8-kilometre long tunnel, through Pir Panjal Range, is the world's longest tunnel above an altitude of 3,000 metres.</p> 	<p>It is being built by Border Roads Organisation (BRO). It will provide all weather connectivity to Manali in Himachal Pradesh with Leh, Ladakh, and Jammu Kashmir.</p>
<p>South China Sea</p> 	<p>China has reportedly deployed an airship near South China Sea (SCS) to monitor and control military activity in the area by other countries, especially the United States. China claims more than 80 per cent. China's "nine-dash line" is a geographical marker used to assert its claim. It stretches as far as 2,000km from the Chinese mainland, reaching waters close to Indonesia and Malaysia.</p>	<p>One third of global shipping, or a total of US\$3.37 trillion of international trade, passes through the South China Sea. Philippines, Vietnam, China, Brunei, Taiwan and Malaysia hold different, sometimes overlapping, territorial claims over the sea, based on various accounts of history and geography.</p>
<p>Israel-Palestine (Jerusalem)</p>	<p>US President Donald Trump unveiled his Middle East peace plan, Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People aimed at solving the</p>	<p>It is home to some of the holiest sites in both Judaism and Islam, and so both Israel and Palestine want to make it their capital.</p>

	<p>Israeli-Palestinian conflict.</p> <p>Jerusalem is situated on the border between Israel and the West Bank.</p>	<p>It is an Important pilgrimage for Christians as well whose holiest Church of Sepulcher is located here.</p> <p>It also hosts the third holiest site of Islam, the dome of the rock, which is one of the oldest extant works of Islamic architecture.</p> <p>The western wall or the Buraq wall is the ancient limestone wall in this city. It is considered holy due to its connection to the temple mount.</p>
<p>Gambia</p>	<p>Recently, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that Myanmar must take effective measures to protect its Rohingya Muslims, including protecting evidence relating to allegations of genocide.</p>	<p>In November 2019, the Republic of the Gambia moved the ICJ against Myanmar over alleged violations of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Gambia was backed by the 57-member Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC).</p>
<p>Baghdad, Iraq</p>	<p>Recently, there was a major escalation in tensions between the US and Iran after an air raid at Iraq's airport in Baghdad, the US struck and killed Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Quds Force. Quds Force is a wing of IRGC which is responsible primarily for its foreign operations.</p>	<p>Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), also called Pasdaran, is a branch of the Iranian armed forces, independent of Iran's regular army. It is tasked with preserving the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ideals of the</p>

<p>Bodoland</p> 	<p>The 3rd Bodo Peace Accord as tripartite agreement between the Centre, Assam Government and the banned Assam-based insurgent group National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) was signed on 27th January 2020, for bringing a lasting peace in Bodo-dominated areas in Assam.</p>	<p>1979 revolution.</p> <p>Bodos are the single largest tribal community in Assam, making up over 5-6% of the state's population. The Bodos have had a long history of separatist demands, marked by armed struggle. The four districts in Assam — Kokrajhar, Baksa, Udalguri and Chirang — that constitute the Bodo Territorial Area District (BTAD), are home to Bodos along with several other ethnic groups.</p>
<p>Bru-Reang Refugee Crisis</p> 	<p>A four-party agreement among the Centre, Mizoram government, Tripura government, and leaders of Bru community was signed to end the 23-year old Bru-Reang refugee crisis.</p>	<p>Mizo is a generic term used for the people living in Mizoram. The Bru community, also referred to as Reangs, resides in Mizoram, Tripura, and parts of southern Assam, and is ethnically distinct from the Mizos of Mizoram. Reangs in Tripura are categorised as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG). There are over 40,000 Brus living in four districts of Mizoram.</p>
<p>Ramsar Sites</p>	<p>The Ramsar Convention has declared 10 more wetlands in India as sites of international importance. This brings the total number of Ramsar sites in India to 37 from 27.</p>	<p>The new ones are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nandur Madhameshwar, Maharashtra • Saman Bird Sanctuary (Mainpuri,

 <p>New Ramsar Sites in India</p> <p>Punjab Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary, Keshopur Wetland (Gurdaspur Bird Sanctuary), Beas Wetland Site</p> <p>Uttar Pradesh Sarsai Nawar Jheel, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Samaspur Bird Sanctuary, Sandi Bird Sanctuary, Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary, Saman Bird Sanctuary</p> <p>Maharashtra Nandur Madhyameshwar Bird Sanctuary</p>		<p>UP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary (Unnao, UP): • Samaspur Bird Sanctuary (Raebareli, UP): • Sandi Bird Sanctuary (Hardoi, UP) • Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary (UP) • Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary (Punjab) • Sarsai Nawar Jheel (Etawah, UP) • Beas Conservation Reserve (Punjab) • Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve (Punjab)
<p>Palau (Pacific Ocean)</p> 	<p>Palau (located in the western Pacific Ocean) has become first country to ban sun cream that is harmful to corals and sea life. The ban came into effect on January 1, 2020. An ingredient in sunscreen products - oxybenzone - is considered to be particularly harmful.</p>	<p>Other places to announce similar ban include the US Virgin Islands, where the law takes effect in March; the US state of Hawaii, the ban comes into effect in 2021, and the Dutch Caribbean island of Bonaire.</p>
<p>Battle of Çanakkale Turkey</p>	<p>Speaking to MPs at a joint session of Pakistan's Parliament, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan expressed his country's deep love and affection for Pakistan, strongly backed its position on</p>	<p>The Battle of Çanakkale, also known as the Gallipoli campaign or the Dardanelles campaign, is considered to be one of the bloodiest of World War I, during which the</p>

	<p>Kashmir. Erdogan went on to say that what happened in Turkey during World War I was now happening in Kashmir, that is the Battle of Çanakkale.</p>	<p>Ottoman army faced off against the Allied forces, leading to the slaughter of tens of thousands of soldiers on both sides. It was an unsuccessful attempt by the Allied Powers to control the sea route from Europe to Russia during World War I.</p>
<p>Northern European Enclosure Dam</p> 	<p>A mammoth Northern European Enclosure Dam (NEED) has been proposed to protect millions of people and important economic regions of 15 Northern European Countries from rising seas as a result of climate change.</p> 	<p>Two dams of a combined length of 637 km will be constructed.</p> <p>First dam will be built between northern Scotland and western Norway, measuring 476 km and with an average depth of 121 m and maximum depth of 321 m.</p> <p>The second dam will be built between France and southwestern England, of length 161 km, and average depth of 85 m and maximum depth of 102 m.</p>
<p>Mt. Aconcagua</p> 	<p>A 12-year old Mumbai student, Kaamya Karthikeyan has set a record of becoming the youngest in the world to summit Mt. Aconcagua.</p>	<p>It is the highest peak of the Andes Mountains in Argentina, South America. It is the highest mountain outside of Asia, with a summit elevation of 6,960.8 metres. The mountain is one of the so-called Seven Summits of the seven continents.</p>

Yongle Blue Hole (YBH)

Cave more than 8,000 years old lies deep inside a yawning sinkhole in the South China Sea.

It is the deepest known marine cavern. Located in the Xisha Islands of the South China Sea (SCS). It measures roughly 300 metres from top to bottom. Its waters are mostly isolated from the surrounding ocean and receive little fresh water from rainfall, making it a rare spot to study the chemistry of oxygen-deprived marine ecosystems.

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