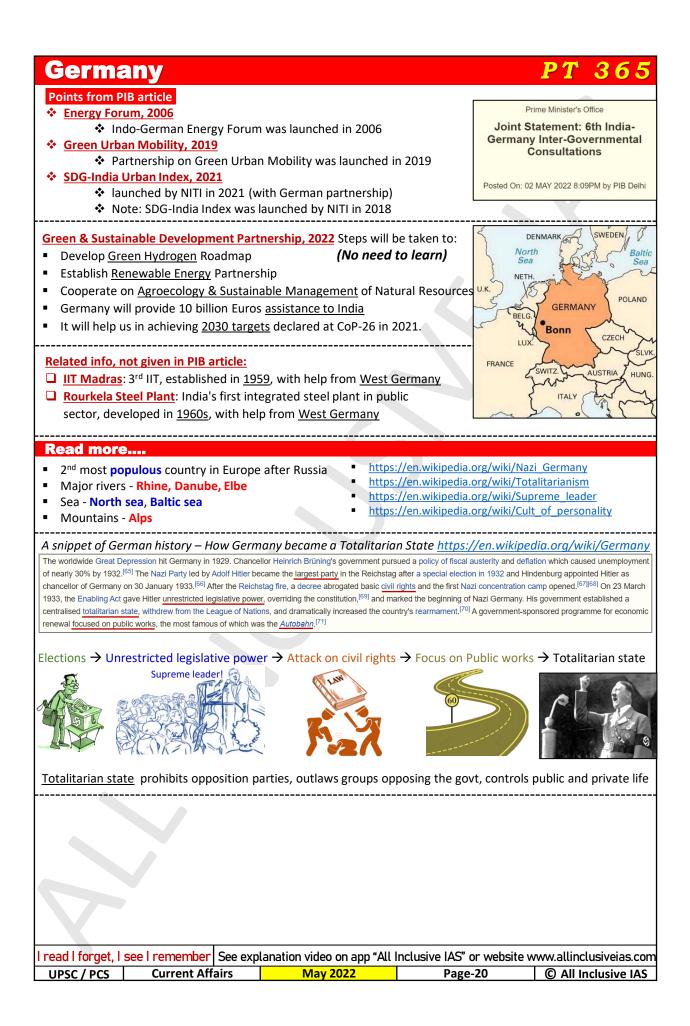
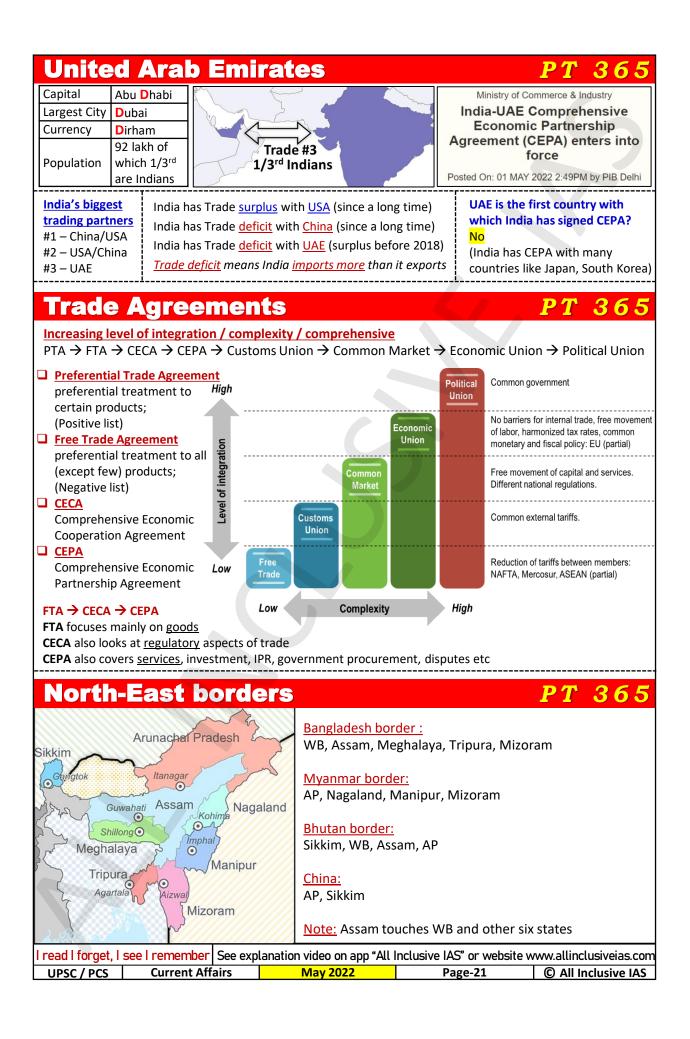
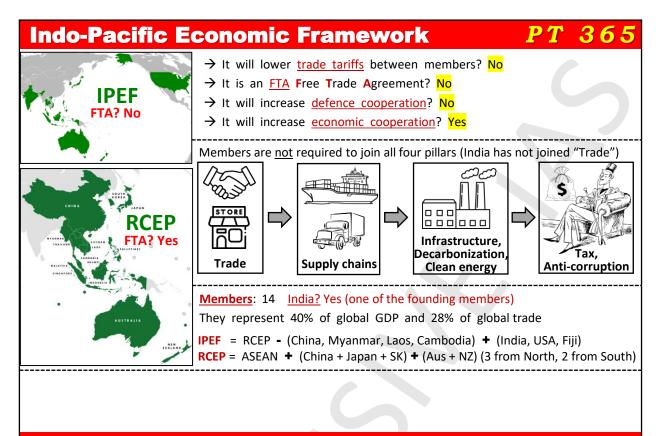
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Indo-Pacific Economic Framework INTERVIEW



- Why US took the initiative to launch IPEF?
- US is concerned about rise of China.
- So US is trying to increase engagement with Indo-Pacific countries.
- Initiatives like IPEF, Quad, AUKUS, are all part of this "Pivot to Asia" policy.

Don't you think objectives of the three initiatives you mentioned are different?

- China is rising in multiple domains like economy, defence, regional relations, etc.
- Hence, it must be tackled in multiple domains.
- IPEF focusses on economy. Quad is a security "dialogue". AUKUS is a security "pact" of giving nuclear submarines to Australia.
- These initiatives are not directly related to each other, but their objective is same.

So what should India do?

- India has always followed an independent foreign policy.
- We take steps which suits us the most.
- China's rise is India's concern too.
- So, India must continue engagement with such initiatives, as long as it does not harm India's interest.

How can it harm India's interests?

- One of the stated objectives of IPEF is to make rules on cross border data flows.
- India is in the process of making laws on data privacy.
- So any agreement in IPEF in this matter can impact our data sovereignty.
- So we have not joined 'Trade' pillar.

Read more....

https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/explained-what-is-the-indo-pacific-economic-framework-for-prosperity/article65460071.ece https://theprint.in/world/china-says-regional-countries-fear-ipef-may-decouple-them-from-chinese-economy/970832/

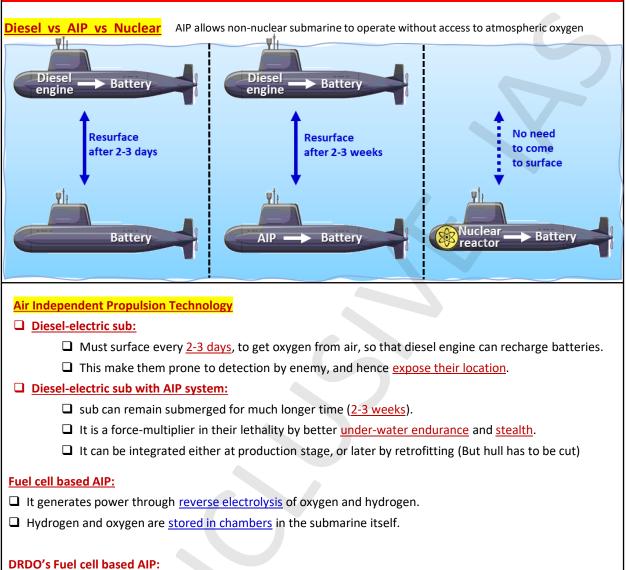
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Indo-Pacific Economic Framework MAINS 365
What is IPEF?
It is an economic initiative launched by USA in May 2022
14 countries, including India, are its members.
Significance of IPEF:
\rightarrow It represents <u>40% of global GDP</u> and 28% of global trade
→ It can <u>increase trade</u> between member nations.
\rightarrow It can make <u>global supply chains</u> resilient to disruptions
ightarrow It can strengthen cooperation on global issues like money laundering,
tax evasion, climate change, etc.
Issues:
\rightarrow <u>No</u> clear objective IPEF will neither create FTA, nor lower tariffs.
Hence, how it will boost trade is not clear.
\rightarrow Similar to BDN & B3W Blue Dot Network and Build Back Better World
initiatives have not given any tangible results. IPEF may also fail to
counter China.
\rightarrow <u>Conflict</u> with WTO Any preferential treatment within IPEF, without
signing FTA, can violate WTO provisions.
China's criticism of IPEF:
 IPEF is a <u>political grouping</u>, created <u>to isolate China.</u>
 IPEF can <u>decouple regional countries</u> from Chinese economy, by creating
alternate supply chains.
<u>Significance for India</u>
\rightarrow <u>Substitute for RCEP</u> Since India did not join RCEP, IPEF can be a good
alternative.
→ <u>Platform to counter China</u> IPEF can control China's growing influence
in Indo-Pacific
\rightarrow <u>Boost economy through exports</u> IPEF can make India part of <u>global</u>
<u>supply chains</u> , giving boost to exports.
<u>Concerns for India</u>
\rightarrow <u>Data sovereignty</u> IPEF will make rules on digital economy and data
localisation. This may negatively impact India's digital sovereignty.
\rightarrow <u>US dominance</u> US may use it to advance its own interest, instead of
interests of the Indo-Pacific.
Current Position
<u>Current Position</u>
\rightarrow India has agreed to three pillars, except pillar on Trade.
→ India is still evaluating the pillar on <u>Trade</u> , because it includes Data protection on which India is still framing law.
→ India is participating in all IPEF discussions with an open mind.
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Submarines



РТ

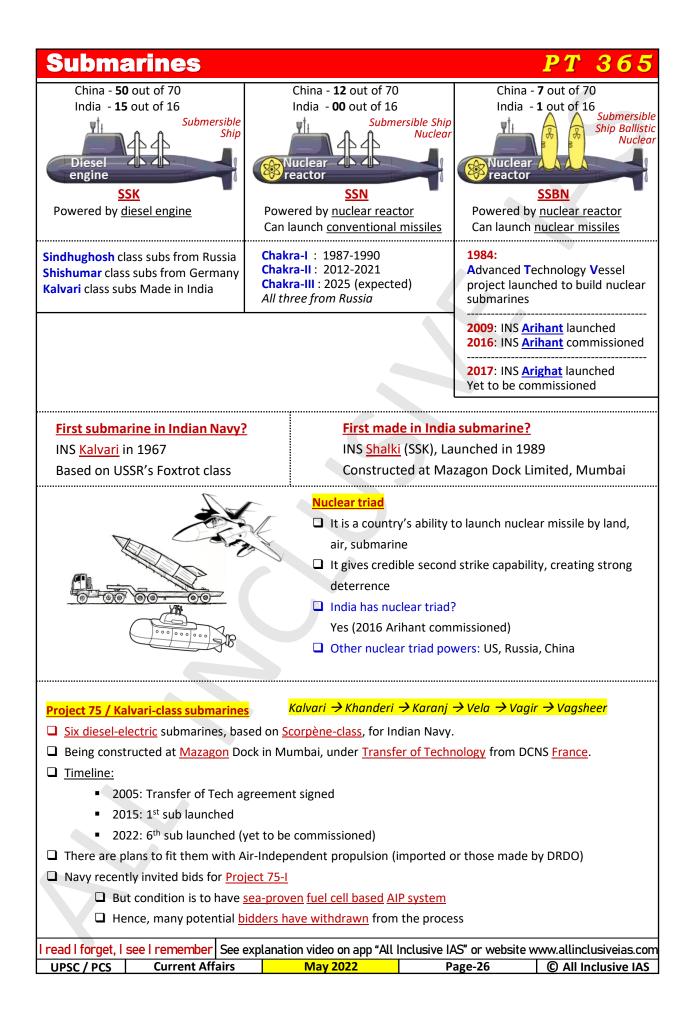
36

- □ It uses <u>Phosphoric Acid</u> Fuel Cell technology.
- □ It is more rugged and tolerant of fuel impurities, offering longer life and efficiency.
- □ It is <u>safer</u> since Hydrogen is not stored, but <u>generated onboard</u>.

Update: [January 2023]

Govt has given permission to integrate DRDO's Fuel-cell based AIP in INS Kalvari.

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Submarines

MAINS 365

Importance of submarines

<u>Surprise attack</u>

→ They can <u>remain submerged</u> for many days, and attack with <u>low chances of</u> <u>detection</u>

Intelligence gathering

→ They can <u>monitor naval activity</u> of other countries (Chinese subs are doing this in IOR)

<u>Sea port security</u>

 \rightarrow They can lay mines around enemy ports and in <u>shipping channels</u>.

Escort Aircraft carriers

 \rightarrow They conduct reconnaissance missions <u>before surface force enters</u> an area.

<u>Nuclear triad</u>

→ They reduce possibility of enemy destroying all nuclear assets. Hence, they present <u>credible nuclear deterrence</u> (second strike capability).

Challenges

Inadequate number compared to China.

 \rightarrow India has 16 submarines, while China has 70.

<u>Repeated accidents</u>

ightarrow e.g. INS Sindhurakshak in 2013 and INS Chakra in 2017

<u>Lack of R&D</u>

 \rightarrow DRDO's Air Independent Propulsion system is yet to be installed on submarines.

Way forward

Boost indigenous R&D

 \rightarrow Take steps for early integration of DRDO's AIP system on existing submarines

Technology transfer

 \rightarrow Purchase technology to construct submarines in India

International cooperation

 \rightarrow Cooperate with US and other like minded countries for sharing data on movement of Chinese submarines in Indian ocean

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Integrated Battle Groups

MAINS 365

HQ

Command

Corps

Division

Brigade

Battalion

Company

Platoon

Section

INTERVIEW

Integrated Battle Groups

IBGs are self-sufficient combat formations, bigger than Brigade but smaller than Divisions.

How IBGs differ form existing formations?

Brigade has to wait to be augmented by different types of units, which increases time to mobilize. IBGs being smaller and self-sufficient, are able to strike harder and quicker across the border.

<u>Benefits:</u>

- → Fast mobilization : they can mobilize within 12-48 hours of orders
- → <u>Self-sufficient</u>: they have infantry, tanks, artillery, engineers, signal units

→ <u>Terrain specific</u>: they are tailor-made as per threat, terrain, mission

Integrated Battle Groups



Interview:

What are Integrated Battle Groups?

IBGs are self-sufficient combat formations bigger than Brigade, but smaller than Division. They have a mix of every arm & service like Infantry, Artillery, Engineers, and Signal units.

But Division also has mix of every arm and service, then what's the need for IBG?

Divisions (with 10-20k) are suitable for full scale war. But probability of full scale war is low. So we need self-sufficient units which are smaller than Division.

Brigades are smaller than Divisions. Why can't we fight battles with Brigade?

Brigades are suitable for battles, but they are slow to mobilize, as they have to be augmented by other units. Battles are limited in time and space. First mover has major advantage. So, we need quick mobilization, as well as self-sufficiency. Therefore, IBGs have been formed.

Understand the concept Battle vs War

Battle is limited to a place. War is a series of battles.

In war, many battles are simultaneously fought at many places. Example:

In 1971, India divided Pakistan into pieces.

To do so, we fought the war at two Fronts (Eastern and Western)

In each Front, there were many Battles, like Battle of Longewala in Western Front.

Did you know? The movie 'Border' (1997) is an adaptation of Battle of Longewala

Quotation: Sometimes you have to lose a Battle to win the War.

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