

All-Inclusive Current Affairs for Prelims 2023

International Relations Class-3

Classes-1 & 2 are in 2022 course

Please also see "May 2022" magazine video. Its freely available on app/portal.

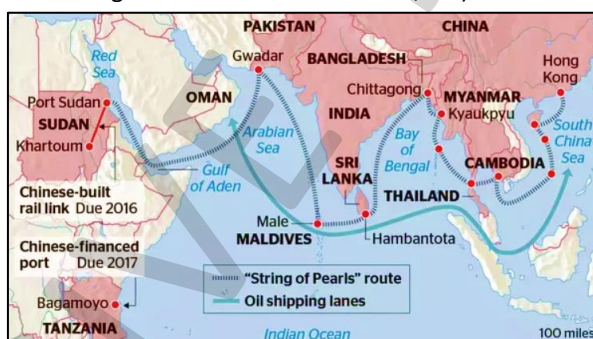
Island Chain Strategy

- created by **USA** in 1951
- to counter **Russia** and **China**
- by creating **naval bases** in western Pacific ocean
- It includes 3 chains in western **Pacific ocean**
- Now 2 chains are proposed in Indian Ocean



String of Pearls

- Chinese network of military and commercial bases in Indian Ocean.
- India is countering it by "**Necklace of Diamonds**" strategy (better relations with other countries, using coastal surveillance radars, etc)



Integrated Coastal Surveillance System

- It was developed by **DRDO** and **BEL**
- After **2008** Mumbai attack, govt sanctioned 46 coastal radars
- Currently operational in India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles

Concessional Financing Scheme

- It was started in 2015 to support **Indian companies** bidding for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad.
- Ministry of External Affairs** selects project.
- EXIM bank** gives loan at low interest rate.



China Plus One Strategy

It is a global business strategy where companies **avoid investing only in China** and diversify their businesses to an alternative destinations (India, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia)

Global Security Initiative

- proposed by **China**
- to counter Quad & AUKUS



Cross-Strait relations

relations across **Taiwan strait** i.e. China-Taiwan relations
See class-2 pg-27



Foreign Direct Product Rule

- If a product was made (even outside USA) using **American tools or technology**, then US government has power to stop its sales.
- It was introduced in **1959** to control trading of US technologies.
- It can be used to control trade between another country and China.
- Recently USA used it to stop China getting advanced computing chips.
- Earlier it was also used against Huawei, Russia, Belarus.

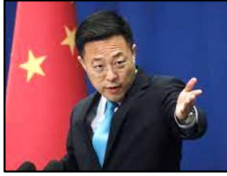
Porcupine strategy

- Defence strategy** adopted by a weak country against attack by a strong country
- Defences are strengthened such that **attacker also suffers** significant damage
- It was in news in China-Taiwan context

Indian Ocean Region Forum

- initiative of **China**, first meet organized in **2022**
- 19 countries participated. **India** was **not** invited

I read I forget, I see I remember | See explanation of this PDF on **YouTube** www.youtube.com/c/allinclusiveias



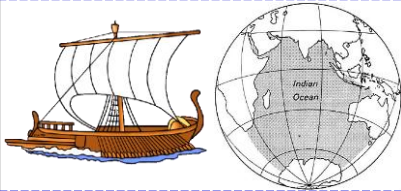
Wolf warrior diplomacy https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolf_warrior_diplomacy

- It is a type of confrontational and **combative diplomacy**
- It is used to describe diplomacy style adopted by **Chinese officials**
- Officials **attack criticism of ruling party** and govt on social media and interviews.
- Even physical violence may be used **against protestors and dissidents**.



Soft power diplomacy https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soft_power

- Use of soft power in diplomacy e.g. cricket, Bollywood, yoga, food, etc.
- Soft power means ability to attract, rather than coerce
- It shapes other's preferences through **appeal and attraction**



Project Mausam

- launched in 2014 by **Ministry of Culture**
- Implemented by Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA)
- Supported by Archaeological Survey of India and National Museum
- To rebuild maritime **cultural connections** with Indian Ocean countries

Para diplomacy

- State & local governments engaging in international relations
- It is sometimes seen as a form of Track-2 diplomacy (page-8)

Voice of Global South Summit

- Initiative of India as leader of G-20
- Theme: Unity of voice, Unity of Purpose



Digital nomads

- They change their location frequently
- They work using digital technologies
- Their work is **location independent**



Moonlighting

- Double employment**, i.e. doing a second job in addition to regular employment
- Some laws (eg **Factories Act**) **prohibits** double employment for factory workers
- But **no law** prohibits double employment for **IT sector** workers



Largest oil producers in 2021

- USA**
 - Russia
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Canada
 - Iraq
- Iran, UAE, Qatar are not in top 5

ICET

- Initiative on Critical & Emerging Technologies
- Announced by **India and USA** in 2022
- First meet held in **Washington DC** in 2023
- Run by **National Security Councils** of both countries
- To cooperate on AI, telecom, defence & space, etc



Guantanamo Bay

- It is in **Cuba** (country in **Caribbean sea**)
- It was leased to **USA** in 1903
- USA is running a **detention camp** here since 2002
- Often in news for **inhumane treatment** of prisoners



Havana Syndrome

unexplained medical symptoms first reported in 2016 by US embassy staff in Havana (capital of Cuba)



Nuclear attack drills

- During the ongoing Ukraine war, two nuclear attack drills were conducted
- Steadfast** noon by NATO
- Grom** by Russia



Tactical nuclear weapon

- short range, low yield nuclear weapons
- Designed to be used in battlefield (Strategic nukes are for interior of enemy territory)
- Can be delivered through short-range missile, artillery shell, land mine, torpedo, etc.
- Never used till date (Russia is threatening Ukraine with it. Pak too threatens India)



B9 countries (Bucharest Nine)

- It was formed in 2015
- Group of 9 countries in eastern Europe who joined NATO after end of Cold war
- In NATO, it is often called as "Voice of the Eastern Flank"
- All of them are NATO members
- All of them were either part of USSR or Warsaw pact (page-15)

Romania, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czech, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

Note: Bucharest is capital of Romania

Transnistria

- Geographically between Moldova and Ukraine
- Internationally recognised as part of Moldova
- Currently under military occupation of Russia



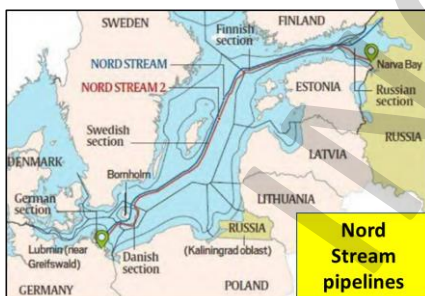
Kerch strait

- It connects Sea of Azov and Black Sea
- It separates Crimea and Russia



Strait: narrow water body, connects 2 water bodies

Isthmus: narrow strip of land, connects 2 landmasses



Nord Stream

- Underwater natural gas pipelines from Russia to Germany
- They pass through Gulf of Finland, Baltic Sea, and Exclusive Economic Zones of many countries
- Majority (51%) is owned by Russian companies
- USA criticized the projects, and even imposed sanctions on companies involved
- Some of these pipelines were damaged after attack in 2022



Sakhalin

- largest island of Russia
- Japan in south
- Sea of Japan in west
- Sea of Okhotsk in east

Sakhalin-1

- Oil & Gas project in Russia's far east
- ONGC Videsh Ltd has 20% stake in it, very profitable
- ONGC Videsh Ltd is overseas arm of ONGC

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Water sharing

Some international principles related to water sharing mentioned in SC ruling in 2018 for Cauvery water dispute <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/firming-up-principles-of-water-sharing/article24497044.ece>

Harmon doctrine	Each country has absolute sovereignty on resources within its territory. SC did not agree with Harmon doctrine.
Campione rules	While calculating share of water, aquifer water should also be considered (i.e. underground water or fossil water)
Helsinki rules 1996	Equitable sharing of river water does not mean same amount of water to both parties. Socio-economic needs must be considered.
Berlin rules 2004	countries should not use water in such a manner which may cause harm to other countries

Riparian principle owner of land adjacent to waterbody, has right to use the water, but does not own the water.

UNSC Committees against terrorism

Three UNSC committees dealing with counter-terrorism

Committee	Formed by Resolution	Formed in year	Area	Can impose sanctions?	Members
Da'esh and Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee	1267	1999	Create list of Global terrorist and impose sanctions on individuals/groups	Yes	15 UNSC members
Counter Terrorism Committee	1373	2001 (after 9/11)	Ask countries to criminalize assistance to terrorism, deny financial support, share info	No	15 UNSC members
1540 committee	1540	2004	Non-proliferation of WMDs	No	15 UNSC members

Note: China repeatedly blocks India's attempt to list certain Pak based terrorists on 1267 list.



Blue Helmets

UN Peacekeeping forces

- Founded in 1945, it is not "UN Army"
- Peacekeepers work under command and control of UN
- They remain members of their respective armed forces
- Currently, most of the troops come from Asia and Africa



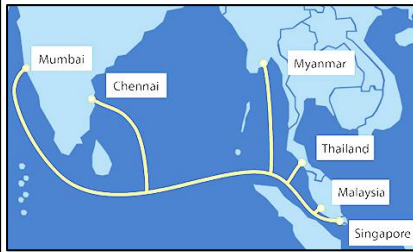
Black Cocaine

- first developed in 1980s in Chile
- It is a mixture of cocaine and some chemicals. Chemicals are added to:
 - change appearance (e.g. charcoal)
 - interfere with color-based drug tests
 - make it undetectable by sniffing dogs (activated carbon absorbs odors)
- Smuggled as fertilizer, rubber sheets, etc.
- Cocaine is later recovered from it by using common organic solvents

No Money for Terror Conference

- platform for discussion on countering terror financing
- 2018- Paris, 2019- Melbourne, 2022- New Delhi
- organized by Egmont group:
 - est in 1995, HQ: Toronto, Ontario, Canada
 - to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing
 - facilitates cooperation between national financial intelligence units (FIUs)
 - est on 18th November 2004
 - comes under Finance Ministry
 - reports to Economic Intelligence Council headed by Finance Minister

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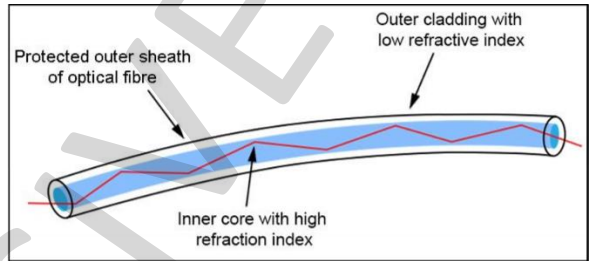
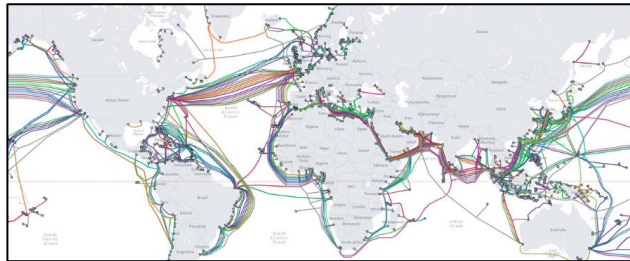
MIST corridor

- MIST : Myanmar/Malaysia India Singapore Transit cable system
- It is a network of **8,100 km long** undersea communication cable
- It will connect India at Mumbai and Chennai



Submarine Communications Cable

- They are laid on sea floor to connect countries across the world
- They were first laid in 1850s
- By 1871, they had connected all continents (except Antarctica)
- Modern undersea cables use optical fibres (based on Total Internal Reflection)



Sri Lanka

Also see page-4



India & Sri Lanka have signed deal to develop oil tank farm at Trincomalee



Katchatheevu island (in Palk strait)

- It is an uninhabited island of Sri Lanka
- It was a disputed territory until 1976.
- In 1974 and 1976, agreements were signed, which resolved the dispute in Sri Lanka's favour.
 - India ceded the islands to Sri Lanka? No
- It was a dispute which was resolved through agreement, hence Constitutional amendment was not needed.
 - As per agreement, Indians don't need Indian passport or Sri Lankan visa to visit Kachchatheevu.
- St. Antony's Church Festival draws people from both countries.



Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre

- ❑ MRCCs are part of an international network under UN's International Maritime Organisation to monitor the sea lanes.
- ❑ They respond to emergency rescue of vessels and people, and containing environmental disasters such as oil spills.
- ❑ Each country is responsible for its own Search and Rescue Region.
- ❑ In India, the Coast Guard is the co-ordinating agency.
- ❑ India will set up a MRCC in Colombo.

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Shimla Agreement

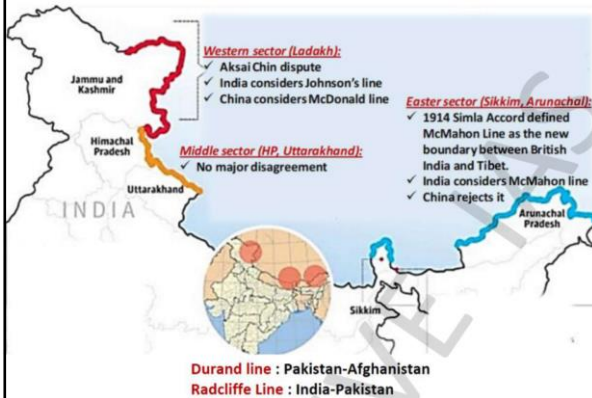


Shimla agreement

- ❑ It was signed on 2nd July 1972 by Indira Gandhi and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (President of Pakistan)
- ❑ All issues will be resolved "bilaterally" (Hence, UN or any country will not interfere in Kashmir issue.)
- ❑ It converted Ceasefire line of 1949 into Line of Control

Line of Control

It is not international boundary. It is clearly demarcated on land



LAC

Line of Actual Control

- It is not international boundary
- 1959: proposed by China, rejected by India
- 1962: after war, it existed as informal ceasefire line
- 1993: both countries agreed to respect it
- It is not clearly demarcated on land.

Practice question

 (see class-1 page-2)

- As per McDonald line, Aksai Chin is in China? Yes
 - As per McMahan line, Arunachal is in India? Yes
- Trick to remember: We like McMahan, not McDonald

Bangladesh

Bangladesh is India's biggest trade partner in South Asia. India is Bangladesh's 2nd biggest trade partner after China.

Some India Bangladesh news

- Both countries will soon start negotiations on CEPA
- Haldibari (India) - Chilahati (Bangladesh) rail link restarted
- Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (another name of Indo Bangladesh Protocol 1972) (pg-2)

India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline

Refined diesel will be supplied from India to Bangladesh

❖ It is built under grant from Indian Govt.

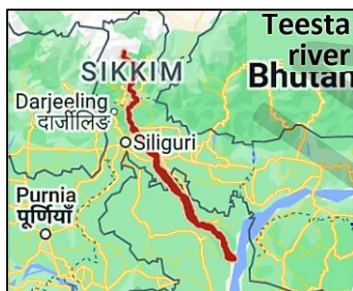
It is India's 2nd cross-border energy pipeline with neighbours

❖ Page-3 : Motihari (Bihar) to Amlekhganj (Nepal) was first

Numaligarh Refinery

 is in Assam

- ❑ Since 2015, it has been supplying petroleum products to Bangladesh, through rail.
- ❑ Now a pipeline will supply petroleum products, from its Siliguri terminal (in WB) to Bangladesh.



Water treaties

- India and Bangladesh have about 54 common rivers
- India-Bangladesh have signed Kushiyara Treaty.
 - It is the first such treaty since 1996 Ganga treaty.
- Ganga Treaty was signed in 1996, for 30 years, for 50:50 share
- Teesta treaty could not be signed in 2011

Meghana ← Surma & Kushiyara ← Barak

- Barak flows through Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Assam
- When it enters Bangladesh, it bifurcates into Surma and Kushiyara
- Later, Surma and Kushiyara converge to become Meghna river

Some rail links

- Petrapole (India) - Benapole (Bangladesh)
- Gede (India) - Darshan (Bangladesh)
- Singhabad (India) - Rohanpur (Bangladesh)
- Radhikapur (India) - Birol (Bangladesh)
- Haldibari (India) - Chilahati (Bangladesh)

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