

All-Inclusive Current Affairs for Prelims 2023

International Relations Class-4

South-East Asia



North-South and East-West relative position of places is important

Malacca strait

Sumatra of Indonesia on South
Malaysia & Singapore on North

It connects Andaman Sea (Indian Ocean) and South China Sea (Pacific Ocean)
On its western edge is Six degree channel (between Great Nicobar and Aceh)

Sunda strait

between Sumatra & Java (both are islands of Indonesia)

Lombok strait

between Bali & Lombok (both as islands of Indonesia)

East Timor

- aka Timor-Leste, Capital: Dili
- 2002: became independent 2011: applied for ASEAN membership
- 2022: It was admitted "in principle" as ASEAN's 11th member, but full membership is pending.

Indonesia

It is world's largest archipelagic state (17,000 islands). Java is world's most populous island

Ind-Indo CorPat

- India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol

Samudra Shakti bilateral naval exercise since 2018

Garuda Shakti bilateral special forces exercise

Cambodia (see pg-29)

- Capital: Phnom Penh
- It has borders with Thailand, Laos, Vietnam
- It opens in Gulf of Thailand
- Angkor Wat: built by Suryavarman-II in 12th century, it is world's largest religious structure
- After Djibouti in Africa, China is building a naval base in Ream Naval base in Cambodia

Philippines (see pg-29)

- Capital: Manila
- No land border with any country
- Bongbong Marcos is new President

India trades in electricity with?

- ✓ Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar
- X Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka
- Talks with Sri Lanka are underway

Eastern Waterways Connectivity Transport Grid

- Ministry of Shipping plans to improve transport connectivity with other countries
- The Grid builds on existing network of Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Routes (signed in 1972, renewed in 2015)

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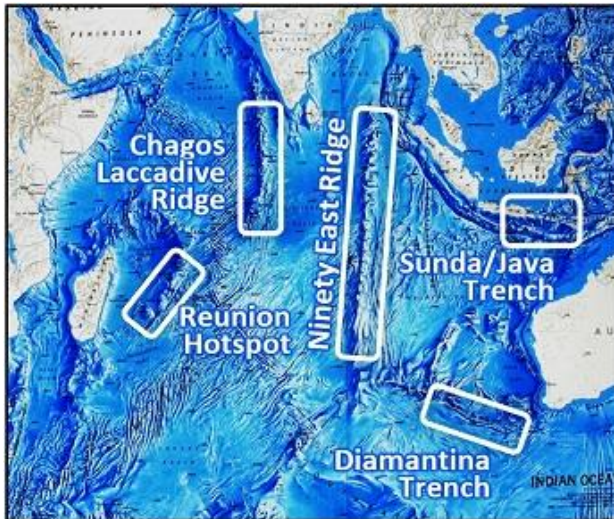
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SAARC Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation:

- signed by all members at 18th SAARC Summit in 2014 in Nepal; for regional grid, electricity trade, etc.

South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration:

- launched in 2000 by USAID for cross-border electricity trade in SAARC



Maldives

- capital Male
- Asia's smallest country
- World's lowest lying country
- It lies on Chagos-Laccadive Ridge
- Its 1200 coral islands lie between 8N & 1S
- It got independence from the British in 1965

The Indian EXPRESS
JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

This Word Means | Aragalaya: Sinhalese for 'struggle', now synonymous with the movement that led to the fall of the government in Sri Lanka

Chennai | Updated: July 20, 2022 08:18 IST NewsGuard

Aragalaya is being used widely to describe the daily gathering of people at Colombo's Galle Face Green that began with the demand that Gotabaya resign as President.

It started with the farmers. They were the first to protest after an edict in April 2021 by Gotabaya Rajapaksa, then Sri Lanka's President, that they should switch over to organic farming. The sudden change came as the country's foreign exchange crisis had started to show, and by stopping the use of chemical fertilisers, Rajapaksa was trying to cut down on the import bill. Paddy farmers

India-Central Asia Summit

- First meeting in 2022 (hosted by India)
- It will be held every 2 years
- India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

East Asia Summit

- First meeting in 2005
- 18 members (ASEAN, India, USA, China, Japan, etc)
- Its meetings are held after the annual ASEAN leaders' meetings

Central Asia



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Kazakhstan

- People protested against fuel price rise
- Govt had to impose Emergency
- Govt imposed cap on price rise

Turkmenistan

April 2022: Ram Nath Kovind became first Indian President to visit Turkmenistan

Batken

- area in Kyrgyzstan
- It has borders with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- Its northern part lies in Fergana Valley.
- It is often in news due to conflicts



Uzbekistan

Children died due to India made syrup having ethylene glycol.

Karakalpakstan (in Uzbekistan)

Govt tried to reduce autonomy of this state
Govt scrapped plan due to public protests

Samarkand

2nd largest city of Uzbekistan
It hosted SCO summit 2022
It is in UNESCO World Heritage List

Double-landlocked: surrounded only by landlocked countries

Liechtenstein: surrounded by Austria and Switzerland

Uzbekistan: surrounded by Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

Iran

Protests

- A woman (Mahsa Amini) did not follow govt rules on Hijab.
- She died in police custody.
- This led to large scale protests.

Land borders

Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey, Iraq

Coastline

Caspian sea, Persian gulf, Oman sea



Middle East

Gulf Cooperation Council

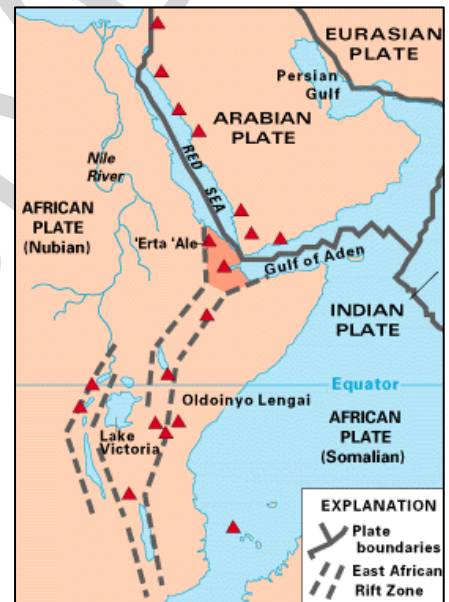
- aka Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
- est in 1981, HQ: Riyadh (capital of Saudi Arabia)
- Since creation, its membership has not expanded
- It is a political and economic union of
 - Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait
 - All members are Arab monarchies
- Peninsula Shield Force is the military arm of GCC, formed in 1984



Middle-East Green Initiative

- It was launched by Saudi Arabia in 2021
- It will plant 50 billion trees in Middle East
- It aims to fight climate change, reduce CO2 emissions, etc

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Red Sea

- It is between Africa and Asia
- It lies on Red Sea Rift (part of Great Rift Valley)
- It is world's northernmost tropical sea
- It is rich in corals



Djibouti Code of Conduct

- Cooperation against maritime piracy in [Western Indian Ocean](#)
- 2009: established by [IMO](#) (International Maritime Organization)
- 2017: [Jeddah amendment](#) added human trafficking & illegal fishing
- 2020: India joined as [Observer](#)

Members: 20 (regional countries)
 Observers: India, USA, etc

Note

- Jeddah is in Saudi Arabia
- IMO is specialized agency of UN. HQ London, est in 1948

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Israel & Lebanon

Israel

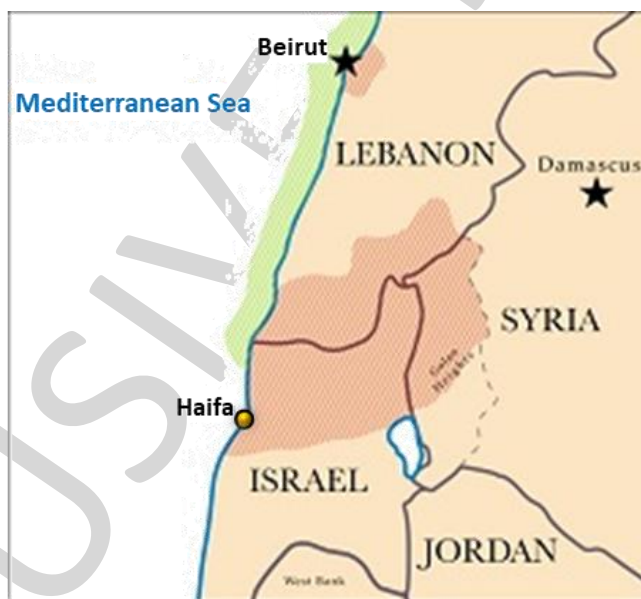
- Capital: Jerusalem
- Shares land border with [Egypt](#), [Jordan](#), [Syria](#), [Lebanon](#)

i2u2 (iiuu)

- India Israel US UAE
- For economic cooperation
- It is not a military grouping

Lebanon

- Capital: Beirut
- Shares land border with [Israel](#) & [Syria](#)
- Recently devalued its currency by 90%
- 2020: accidental ignition of [ammonium nitrate](#) caused massive blast (3.3 magnitude earthquake)



Israel - Lebanon dispute

Maritime border dispute resolved:

- ❖ They have reached [US brokered](#) agreement to settle maritime border dispute
- ❖ They will benefit from [off-shore gas fields](#) in Mediterranean, like [Karish](#) and [Qana](#)

Land border dispute still remains:

- ❖ "[Blue Line](#)" is a temporary land border drawn by UN after Israel withdrew from southern Lebanon in 2000.

Note:

- ❖ [Israel](#) opens to both [Mediterranean](#) sea and [Red](#) sea (through [Gulf of Aqaba](#))
- ❖ [Jordan](#) doesn't open to Mediterranean sea, but to [Red](#) sea (through [Gulf of Aqaba](#))
- ❖ [Sinai](#) peninsula is the only part of [Egypt](#) that lies in [Asia](#)
- ❖ [Golan heights](#) was captured by Israel from Syria during Six-Day War of 1967, formally annexed in 1981

Haifa

- Recently, [Adani](#) group acquired Haifa port
- It is a sea port in Israel in [Mediterranean sea](#).
- It is a [UNESCO](#) World Heritage Site and a destination [Bahá'í faith](#)
- 23 September is commemorated as [Haifa Day](#) by Indian Army (Indian Cavalry helped liberate Haifa in 1918)

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Africa



Morocco

- westernmost country in Maghreb region of North Africa
- It controls 80% of former Spanish colony of Western Sahara
- Strait of Gibraltar separates it from Spain (Iberian peninsula)
- Atlas mountains pass through it
- Largest city: Casablanca
- Capital: Rabat



G5 Sahel

- Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso
- Formed in 2014 for regional cooperation
- G5 Sahel Joint Force was formed in 2017 to fight terrorism



Burkina Faso

- Landlocked country in West Africa
- Got independence from France in 1960 August 5
- Official language: French
- Capital: Ouagadougou



Gambia

- Capital: Banjul
- Independence: 1965, from UK
- Surrounded by Senegal, opens to Atlantic ocean
- Children died by consuming India made cough syrup
- It is the smallest country in mainland Africa (Largest is Algeria since division of Sudan in 2011)



Equatorial Guinea

- Capital: Malabo
- country on western coast of central Africa
- It is on north and south of equator, but not on equator
- Note: equator passes through 13 countries



Tigray

in northern Ethiopia
Civil war since 2020



Abyei

India deployed all-women platoon as
part of UN peacekeeping in Abyei

OSCE Minsk group

- It was created in 1992 by Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe
- It aims to find solution to Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (page-29)
- It is chaired by USA, Russia, France

Europe



English channel

- Between England and France
- Acted as natural defence against invasions
- Dover Strait is at the narrowest part of English channel

Liverpool

- City in England
- It has been removed from UNESCO's list of world heritage sites.
- Reason: new buildings, including a football stadium, undermined the attractiveness of its Victorian docks.

Other places that lost tag of World Heritage site

- Wildlife sanctuary in Oman in 2007 due to poaching and habitat loss
- Dresden Elbe valley in Germany in 2009 when a bridge was built over the river

France:

- Yellow vests protests started in 2018
- People are demanding economic justice and political reforms
- People use yellow vest while protesting (It is mandatory to keep yellow jackets in vehicles and wear in case of emergency)

Paris club 1956

- informal group of creditor countries to find solution to payment difficulties faced by debtor countries.
- It has 22 members (USA, Russia, UK, etc)
- India is not its member



Club of Rome 1968

- international NGO, discusses pressing global issues
- est in 1968 in Rome, Italy; HQ Switzerland
- Famous for 1972 report "The Limits to Growth"

Americas



Peru:

- President (Pedro Castillo's) tried to dissolve Congress.
- He was impeached and arrested.
- Emergency was declared due to protests.
- Vice-President (Dina Boluarte) took charge as President.
- She is the first female VP of this country.

Ukraine



Annexation in Ukraine

In Sept 2022, Russia annexed 4 regions:

- Luhansk
- Donetsk
- Zaporizhzhia
- Kherson

Crimea was annexed in 2014

Russia has threatened to expel people of these areas who do not accept Russian citizenship.

Odesa

- Sea port in black sea in Ukraine.
- In January 2023, it was declared a **World Heritage Site** and added to the List of **World Heritage in Danger** by UNESCO

Japan



Former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe was assassinated.

Reciprocal Access Agreement

- defence cooperation agreement between Japan and some other country
- Japan has such agreements with Australia and UK

Indian Presidents who died in office:

- #3 1967-69 Zakir Husain
- #5 1974-77 Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed

Indian Prime Ministers who died in office:

- #1 1947-64 Jawaharlal Nehru
- #2 1964-66 Lal Bahadur Shastri
- #3 1980-84 Indira Gandhi (also 1966-77) (assassinated)
- #6 1984-89 Rajiv Gandhi (not PM when assassinated)

Note:

- ❑ [Lal Bahadur Shastri](#) died in Tashkent, [Uzbekistan](#) (then Soviet Union) on 11-01-1966, one day after signing peace treaty to end 1965 Indo-Pak War.
- ❑ 13 days later, [Homi Jehangir Bhabha](#) also died in a plane crash in Alp mountains ([Europe](#))
- ❑ It is alleged that both of them were assassinated by [CIA](#) to thwart India's nuclear program.

He was president of Chad from 1990 until his death in 2021 (Chad is a landlocked country in north-central Africa)	Idriss Deby
This Nepal King was killed with 8 other members of royal family in 2001	King Birendra
This Israeli PM , for his role in Oslo Accords, was: •awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1994 •assassinated by a right-wing extremist in 1995	Yitzhak Rabin
This Egyptian President was: •awarded Nobel Peace prize in 1978 for Camp David Accords •assassinated in 1980 during annual parade to celebrate Operation Badr Operation Badr 1973 : Egyptian Army crossed Suez Canal and took back part of Sinai Peninsula from Israel at beginning of Yom Kippur War .	Anwar Sadat
This US President was: •youngest person to be elected as President •youngest President at end of tenure •assassinated in 1963 by Lee Harvey Oswald	John Fitzgerald Kennedy

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Australia



- Capital : [Canberra](#) (not Sydney)
- PM Anthony Albanese (since May 2022)

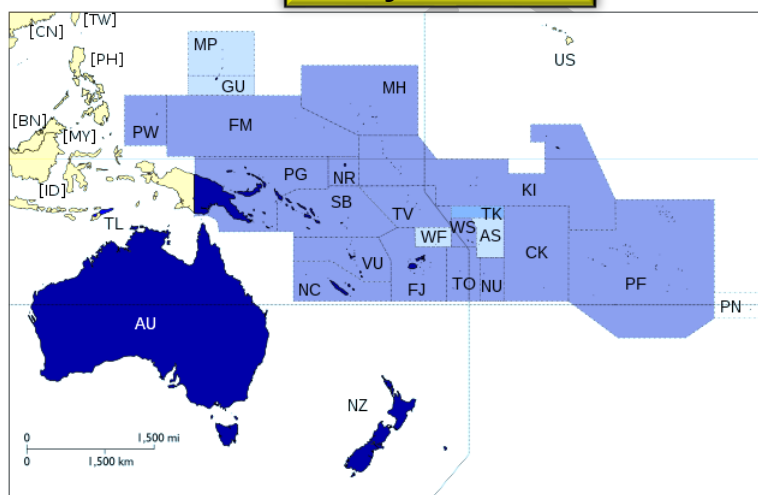
Terms related to Australia (but don't seem to be!)

- India Economic Strategy [2035](#)
- New [Colombo Plan](#) Mobility Program
- ❖ \$17 billion - India's [imports](#) from Australia (mostly raw materials & intermediate goods)
- ❖ \$10 billion - India's [exports](#) to Australia (mostly finished goods)

Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement

- Signed between [India & Australia](#)
- Benefits: zero duty on most goods, more student visa, etc.
- It covers goods, services, movement of people, trade remedies, Rules of Origin, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, etc.

Pacific Islands



Pacific Islands Forum

(earlier known as South Pacific Forum)

- Est. in [1971](#), Secretariat in [Fiji](#)
- Members: 18 (including Australia & New Zealand)
- It is a UN General Assembly [observer](#)
- Aim: cooperation in countries of Oceania (Australasia, Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia)
- See map on Environment class-9 pg-123

Partners in Blue Pacific

- started in 2022 by USA, UK, Japan, Australia, New Zealand
- Support Small Island Nations [to counter China's influence](#)

Solomon islands

- Signed security pact with China
 - It allows China to send military to maintain social order
- Took loan from China, to pay Huawei, to build mobile towers.
 - China is using [debt trap diplomacy](#)



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Financial Action Task Force

FATF

- **1989**: formed by G7 to combat money laundering
- **2001**: mandate expanded to combat terror financing
- HQ: within **OECD** HQ in Paris, France
- **Members**:
 - **39** full members (India, China, US, UK, Russia, France, etc)
 - **India** became full member in **2010**
 - **Pakistan** is **associate** member, not full member
- **Grey list**:
 - "Jurisdictions under **Increased Monitoring**" refers to nations in Grey list
 - Pakistan was in it during 2008-10, 2012-15, 2018-2022
- **Black list**:
 - "**High Risk jurisdictions**" / "**Call for action nations**" refers to nations in Black list
 - Only **Iran**, **North Korea**, **Myanmar** (as of May 2023)
- "**Mutual Evaluation Report**" is seen in news in context of? FATF
- "**Money Laundering & illegal wildlife trade** report" was released by? FATF

CPA TPP



Trade agreement between some Pacific rim countries

- 2016: Trans-Pacific Partnership signed (but not ratified)
- 2017: USA formally withdrew from TPP
- 2018: remaining countries negotiated a new trade agreement called CPA TPP
- ❖ **India**: No
- ❖ **UK**: It has applied, may become member in 2023
- ❖ **China**: It has applied, may not be accepted.

Friendshoring



Offshoring	making products in another country
Onshoring / Reshoring	making products at home
Nearshoring	making products in nearby countries
Ally shoring / Friend shoring	making products in friendly countries

Miscellaneous

Global Partnership on AI

- Launched in **2020**
- Secretariat hosted at **OECD** in Paris
- **India** is one of the founding members (US, UK, ...)

Investment Incentive Agreement

- signed by **India and USA** in 2022
- It replaces the IIA signed in 1997
- Through it, USA gives investment support in India

Global Innovation Partnership

- launched by **India and UK** to promote SDG related innovations in other developing countries

Minerals Security Partnership / critical minerals alliance

- Launched in **2022** by USA and 10 countries (UK, EU, Japan, Australia, etc)
- **India** showed interest but was **not** made member
- Its members aim to **reduce their dependence on China** for cobalt, nickel, lithium & 17 rare earth minerals.

Inter-Parliamentary Union: (not UN agency)

- Group of national **parliaments**
- est in **1889**, HQ Geneva Switzerland
- 178 members. India? Yes USA? No

Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China

- Group of "**parliamentarians**" from democracies
- It was established on June 4, **2020** (anniversary of 1989 Tiananmen massacre)

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Carl Gustaf



Carl Gustaf weapon system

- **Shoulder fired** rocket launch system
- Usually used for **anti-tank** rockets
- Inducted in Indian Army 1976
- Currently using M2 and M3 versions
- M4 version may be made in India

Swarm drones



Swarm Drones

- Multiple drones acting in **coordination**
- Can be used for light show, lifting heavy object, attacking a target, etc.



Loitering Munition

- small UAV with explosives
- aka suicide drone / **Kamikaze drone**
- It can **wait** for some time **before attacking**
- **Shahed 136** (made by Iran, used by Russia)
- **Nagastra-1** (used by Indian Army, made by 'Economic Explosives Ltd' a private company in Nagpur)

Bayraktar



Baykar Bayraktar TB2

- Made by Baykar (**Turkish** private company)
- Medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) **combat UAV**
- Used by many countries like **Ukraine, Pakistan**, etc.
- Some other combat UAVs: **Ghatak & Tapas** by DRDO, **Predator & Reaper** by USA, etc.



Dirty Bomb

- aka radiological dispersal device
- It combines **conventional explosives** with **radioactive material**.
- It aims to **contaminate the area** with radioactive material.
- It has been **never used**, only tested.

Land mines



Anti-tank mines: they target vehicles

Anti-personnel mines: they target humans

PFM-1 mine

- anti-personnel land mine of Russia
- aka **Green Parrot / Butterfly Mine / Petal mines**
- In the ongoing Ukraine war, thousands of these mines were scattered over large area, using rockets



Ottawa Treaty 1997

- aka Mine Ban Treaty, or Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
- aims at eliminating anti-personnel landmines (APLs) around the world
- **Ukraine is part of it, but Russia is not**
- About 30 countries are not part of it (India, Pak, China, USA, etc)

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