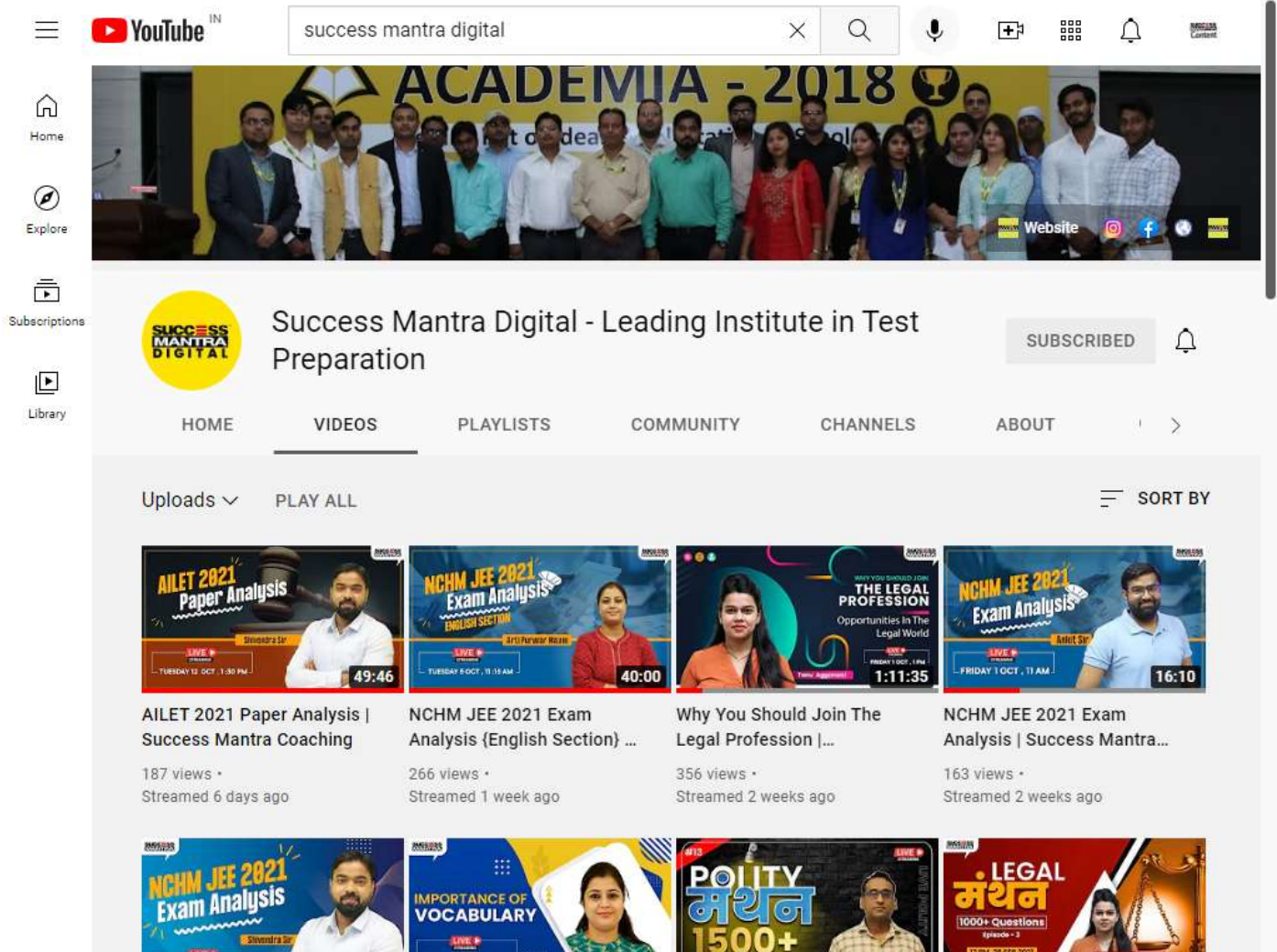


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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**#PM MODI ATTENDED 16TH G20 SUMMIT**

- Prime Minister Modi had reached Italy to attend the **16th G20 Summit** which was scheduled to be held in Rome on October 30-31, 2021. He paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his first day of arrival in Rome and **he also called on Pope Francis in the Vatican during his two-day visit.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Rome and the Vatican City at the invitation of Prime Minister of Italy Mario Draghi.**
- As the **G20 Summit 2021** concludes, **Prime Minister has now landed in Glasgow, United Kingdom**, on November 1-2 for the COP26 meeting. He will be visiting the country at the invitation of UK PM Boris Johnson.

**PM Modi attends session of G20 Summit on climate change**

- Prime Minister Modi, along with other leaders of G20, have agreed that the WHO will be strengthened to fast-track the process for emergency use authorization for COVID-19 Vaccines.
- **Adoption of Rome Declaration:** The G20 leaders have also adopted the Rome Declaration giving a strong message under the health section where the leaders agreed that COVID immunisation is a global public good.
- The G20 leaders, during the session, identified sustainable and responsible consumption and production along with the provision of finance and technology as critical enablers of achieving the Climate Goals.
- As clean energy and innovation will play a significant role in the years to come, the energy security and energy markets **have also been recognized by the G20 Leaders.**
- **G20 Leaders commit to Paris Agreement:** The G20 Leaders said that they remain committed to the Paris Agreement goal of keeping the global average temperature increase well below 2 degrees Celsius and pursue the efforts of limiting it to 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- **PM Modi participates in session on 'Global Economy and Global Health' of 16th G20 Summit 2021**
- PM Modi, during his session, conveyed that India is ready to **produce 5 billion vaccine doses by the end of next year.**
- **WHO's EUA for Covaxin** will also facilitate this process of assisting other nations. Prime Minister has invited the G20 Countries to make India their partner in the economic recovery and supply chain diversification.
- Global energy crisis was also raised in the meeting, however, the first meeting of G20 was focused on health issues.

Prime Minister Modi in Italy: Bilateral meets with various leaders

- **Prime Minister Modi held a meeting with the German Chancellor Angela Merkel on sidelines of G20 Rome. Extensive deliberations on India-Germany relations were held.**
- **Prime Minister Modi meets the Prime Minister of Spain Pedro Sanchez on the sidelines of G20 Summit in Italy.**
- On his two-day visit to Italy, **Prime Minister Modi met the President of France Emmanuel Macron** on the sidelines of G20 Summit 2021. The meeting between the two leaders revolved around enhancing cooperation in diverse areas as well as boosting people-to-people relations.
- Prime Minister Modi had a very warm meeting with **Pope Francis at the Vatican** on October 30, 2021. Prime Minister informed that he had the opportunity of discussing a wide range of issues with him. PM Modi also invited Pope Francis to visit India which he accepted in return. The meeting between the two lasted for an hour.
- **Prime Minister Modi receives Guard of Honour at Palazzo Chigi in Rome, Italy**
- **Prime Minister Modi**, on his two-day visit to Italy to participate in G20 Summit, **also met Prime Minister Italy Mario Draghi.**

16th G20 Summit 2021

- Prime Minister Modi will attend the G20 Summit at the invitation of Italy's Prime Minister Mario Draghi. The 16th G20 summit will be held on October 30-31, 2021.
- The theme of the 16th G20 Summit 2021 is **People, Planet, and Prosperity** and it has come from the 2030 UN Agenda for sustainable development.
- This will be Prime Minister's eighth G20 Summit. In 2020, the **summit was hosted virtually by Saudi Arabia because of the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- Prime Minister Modi had attended the **last in-person summit in 2019 in Osaka.**

G20 Summit 2021: Focus

- The 16th G20 Summit 2021 hosted by Italy will **focus on the recovery from the pandemic, economic recovery, and resilience, strengthening global health governance, energy transition and climate change, food security, and sustainable development.**
- Prime Minister Modi, in Rome, **will join other G20 leaders during the 16th G20 Summit.**
- There will be discussions on health recovery from the pandemic, global economy, climate change, and sustainable development.
- On the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rome, Prime Minister will meet the leaders of the other partner countries. He will review the progress made in India's bilateral relations with them.
- Prime Minister, while informing about his visit to Rome for G20 Summit, said that this will be the **first in-person Summit of the G20 since the outbreak of the COVID pandemic in 2020.**
- It will allow us to take stock of the current global situation and exchange ideas on how the G20 can be an engine for strengthening the economic resilience and for building back inclusively and sustainably from

the pandemic.

- The meeting between Prime Minister Modi and Pope will also be significant, as PM Modi will only be the 5th Indian Prime Minister to meet the Pope. The last PM to meet the Pope was Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The other three PMs to meet Pope include **Indira Gandhi, I.K. Gujral, and Jawahar Lal Nehru.**

5 Key facts about G20 Summit

- The **Group of Twenty is an intergovernmental forum** that comprises 19 nations and the European Union. It was founded in 1999.
- G20 group focuses on the issues related to the **global economy, such as international financial stability, sustainable development, and climate change.**
- G20 group collectively accounts for **90% of the Gross World Product (GWP)**, two-thirds of the world population, 75-80% of the international trade, and roughly half the world's land area.
- Since 2008, the group convenes at least once a year, with the summits involving each member's head of government. At the 2009 summit, **G20 declare itself the primary venue for international financial and economic cooperation.**

#16TH G20 SUMMIT HELD CONCLUDED IN ITALY

In the recently concluded **G20 summit**, the leaders made a commitment to reach carbon neutrality by or around mid-century.

- They have adopted the **Rome Declaration** (the **current presidency** of G20 countries is **being held by Italy**).
- Earlier, the **G20 Climate Risk Atlas** was released which provides climate scenarios, information, data and future changes in climate across the G20 countries.



Highlights of the Declaration:

- **Roadmap for COP 26:** It urged leaders of the world's biggest economies to put their action plans to tackle the global climate change crisis.
- This is a significant step in the context of the upcoming **UN climate conference (COP 26)** in Glasgow, Scotland.
- **Restricting Aid to Coal Based Plants:** It included a pledge to **halt financing of overseas coal-fired power generation** by the end of this year (2021).
- **PPP Model of Finance Mobilisation:** **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)** are the only way to achieve the trillions of dollars in annual investment needed to transition to **clean, sustainable energy sources** that will mitigate the warming of global temperatures.

Declaration by India:

- **Addressing Vaccine Inequality:** Underlining the need to address vaccine inequity across the world, India is ready to produce over **5 billion vaccine doses by the end of next year (2022).**

- India also emphasised on vaccine research, manufacturing and innovation.
- **One Earth One Health:** The vision of “One Earth One Health”, or the need for a collaborative approach in the international domain in the fight against the pandemic.
- **Resilient Global Supply Chains:** India highlighted the need for resilient global supply chains and invited G-20 countries to make India their partner in economic recovery and supply chain diversification.
- **Support for Global Minimum Tax:** India also lauded the G-20’s decision to come up with a **15-percent minimum corporate tax** to make the global financial architecture “more just and fair”
- **Welcoming Indo-Pacific Strategy:** India welcomed the European Union’s **Indo-Pacific strategy** and French leadership in it.

G20 (Group of Twenty)

- It is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union (EU), with representatives of the **International Monetary Fund** and the **World Bank**.
- It **does not have a permanent secretariat or Headquarters**.
- The membership comprises a mix of the world’s largest advanced and emerging economies, representing about two-thirds of the world’s population, 85% of global **gross domestic product**, 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade.
- **Members:** Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the EU.

#18TH ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT 2021

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi had addressed the 18th India-ASEAN Summit** virtually at the invitation of the **Sultan of Brunei**.
- The Heads of State and Government of the ASEAN Countries will also attend the Summit. At the 18th ASEAN-India Summit, PM Modi will review the status of the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership and take cognizance of the **COVID-19 pandemic, education and culture, and trade and commerce**.
- Significant international and regional developments including post-pandemic economic recovery will also be discussed.



PM Narendra Modi at 18th India-ASEAN Summit

- Due to the COVID19 pandemic, all of us had to face a lot of challenges. **This challenging time also tested the India-ASEAN partnership.** Our mutual cooperation in the COVID era will keep strengthening our relations in the future. It will make the base for goodwill between our people.
- In 2022, the **India-ASEAN partnership will complete 30 years**. India will also complete 75 years of its independence. We will celebrate this significant milestone as ASEAN-India Friendship Year.
- The special role of ASEAN is **deeply rooted in India’s Act East Policy and Security and Growth for All**

in the Region (SAGAR) policy. India's Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative and ASEAN's Outlook for the Indo-Pacific are the frameworks for our shared vision and mutual cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

- PM Modi also called for an early review of the **India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** in goods that India has been seeking for Indian businesses to gain better access to markets in the ASEAN region. The approval by ASEAN for reviewing FTA is significant for India to aid Indian businesses in matters related to non-tariff barriers.

India-ASEAN Summit – Background

- PM Modi had **attended the 17th ASEAN-India Summit** virtually in November 2020. ASEAN-India summits are held annually to provide an opportunity for India and ASEAN leaders to engage at the highest level.
- The ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership is based on **shared historical, geographical, and civilizational ties.**
- In 2022, the ASEAN-India relations will complete 30 years. **India became a Sectoral Partner of ASEAN in 1992, a Dialogue Partner in 1996, and a Summit level Partner in 2002.**
- ASEAN is central to India's Act East Policy and the wider vision of the Indo-Pacific region. India and ASEAN partnership conducts various dialogue systems such as a Summit, Ministerial and Senior Officials meetings.
- In August 2021, **External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar attended the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting** and EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting virtually. Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel attended the ASEAN Economic Ministers + India Consultations in September 2021 virtually.

- **When was the first India-ASEAN Summit held?**
- **The first India-ASEAN Summit was convened in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in November 2002.** Then-Prime Minister Atal Bihar Vajpayee had attended the First India-ASEAN Summit.

PM Modi attended 16th East Asia Summit

- PM Narendra Modi on October 27, 2021, also attended the 16th East Asia Summit virtually. PM Modi reaffirmed India's focus on **a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific and the principle of ASEAN Centrality in the region.**
- The East Asia Summit is the premier Leaders-led forum in the Indo-Pacific region. The East Asia Summit includes **India, Japan, China, Australia, the US, New Zealand, Russia, the Republic of Korea,** and 10 ASEAN Member states. India is a founding member of the East Asia Summit.

#18TH RIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

- **Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** chaired the **18th meeting of Foreign Ministers of Russia, India, and China** virtually on November 26, 2021.
- **Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi** and **Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov** had taken part in the meeting through video conference.
- India had taken over the chairmanship of the RIC after the last RIC Foreign Ministers meeting in Moscow in September 2020. The RIC Chairmanship will now pass on to China's Foreign Minister for the next year.



- Addressing the virtual meet, **EAM Jaishankar urged the RIC Countries** to coordinate their approaches on terrorism, radicalization and work together to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches Afghanistan without any hindrance and politicization.

EAM Jaishankar at RIC Meet: Key Highlights

- **EAM Jaishankar** while addressing the meeting said that our **approach to global development should be human-centric**.
- He stated that the need of the hour is 'One Earth, One Health', adding that COVID has shown interdependence of the interconnected world.
- The Union Minister stressed that as a neighbour & long-standing partner of Afghanistan, India is concerned about the recent developments in that country, especially the sufferings of the Afghan people. He reiterated that India supports an inclusive & representative govt. in Afghanistan and also other resolutions of UN 2593.
- EAM emphasised on the **importance of RIC countries** to coordinate their respective approaches on threats of terrorism, radicalization and drug trafficking.

Background

- India has not recognized the Taliban government in Afghanistan and has been **initiating talks on restoring peace in the nation and providing all necessary aid to its citizens.**
- India had recently hosted an NSA-level meeting on Afghanistan last month and had also taken part in the Moscow dialogue on Afghanistan before that.
- **What is RIC?**
- Russia-India-China (RIC) is a strategic grouping that was established in the late 1990s under the leadership of Yevgeny Primakov, the then **Russian foreign minister and Prime Minister (1998-99).**
- The grouping was created to form a platform to counterbalance the western hegemony.
- The group's three-member countries- **Russia, India and China**-constitute 19 percent of the global geographical space and **contribute to almost 33 percent of the global GDP.**

Why is RIC grouping relevant today?

- The RIC grouping provides an opportunity for the three countries to identify and work on common interests and tensions. It enables the formation of a more egalitarian global economic order that can counterbalance US dominance.
- The **three RIC nations also form the core of BRICS and SCO grouping** and hence, they can together work on how they would want to influence the global order in the coming times, through these larger platforms.

#PM MODI LAUNCHED GREEN GRIDS INITIATIVE?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) initiative** jointly with his UK counterpart Boris Johnson at the event 'Accelerating Clean Technology Innovation and Deployment' at COP26 Climate Summit at Glasgow.
- In May 2021, India and the UK had agreed to combine the Green Grids Initiative and the One Sun One World One Grid and jointly launch GGI-OSOWOG at the COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow in November 2021.



What is Green Grids Initiative – (GGI-OSOWOG) Initiative?

- With sustainable development and climate change mitigation at the heart of the **Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) initiative**, the (GGI-OSOWOG) initiative can aid in developing a common and strong global grid.
- The GGI-OSOWOG initiative is being developed by India, UK jointly in collaboration with the **World Bank and India's International Solar Alliance (ISA).**
- The GGI-OSOWOG initiative was unveiled by the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, India Presidency of

the ISA, and the UK COP Presidency at COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow on November 2, 2021.

What is One Sun One World One Grid initiative?

- The **idea of the One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative** was proposed by PM Narendra Modi at the First Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in October 2018.
- The OSOWOG initiative aims at interconnecting global grids to harness solar energy.
- The **vision of OSOWOG is 'The Sun Never Sets'**. In simple terms, OSOWOG will establish a single global grid to share solar energy across different countries, power the world with clean & renewable energy, and reduce dependence or usage of non-renewable energy such as coal.

#OTHER PLEDGES MADE AT COP26 SUMMIT

Recently, leaders at the **COP26 global climate conference in Glasgow** have pledged to **stop deforestation** by the end of the decade and slash emissions of **methane** to help slow **climate change**.

- Earlier, India announced that it will reach **carbon neutrality by 2070 as part of a five-point action plan** that included reducing emissions to 50% by 2030.



Methane Pledge:

- The **European Union (EU)** and the US have launched a landmark **pledge to slash emissions of the powerful greenhouse gas methane**, a commitment that could prevent 0.2 degrees Celsius of global warming.
- The alliance's members will seek to lower global emissions of methane - the second-largest contributor to climate change after carbon dioxide - by 30% below 2020 levels by 2030.
- Besides the EU and the US, **more than 103 countries have signed up so far**, including major methane emitters like Nigeria and Pakistan.
- The **Global Methane Pledge (US)**, first announced in September 2021, now covers emissions from two-thirds of the global economy.
- **China, Russia and India - have not signed up**, while Australia has said it will not back the pledge.
- **Methane: A Concern**
- Methane is more **short-lived in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide but 80 times more potent** in warming the earth.
- Humanity has also boosted the **greenhouse gases** in the atmosphere by hacking away at the forests that absorb roughly 30% of carbon dioxide emissions, according to the nonprofit **World Resources Institute**.
- Human sources of methane include landfills, oil and natural gas systems, agricultural activities, coal mining, wastewater treatment, and certain industrial processes.
- **Call for Climate Finance:**

- India noted that **climate finance** cannot continue at the levels decided in 2009 (100 billion USD), and emphasised that it **should be at least USD 1 trillion to meet the goals of addressing climate change**.
- India underlined the unity and strength of **Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC)** as fundamental in the **UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)** negotiations.
- To **preserve the interest of the Global South in the fight against climate change**, India **highlighted that recognition of the current challenges** being faced by developing countries required intensified multilateral cooperation, not intensified global economic and geopolitical competition and trade wars.
- India requested the LMDC members to join hands with India to support the global initiatives it has pioneered, including the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** and the **Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)**.
- Infrastructure for Resilient Island States:**
- India launched this initiative as **a part of the CDRI** that would **focus on building capacity**, having pilot projects, especially in small island developing states.
- Small Island Developing States or SIDS face the biggest threat from climate change, India's space agency **ISRO** will build a special data window for them to provide them timely information about cyclones, coral-reef monitoring, coast-line monitoring etc. through satellite.

#INDIA'S DE-HYPHENATED POLICY: ISRAEL & PALESTINE

Recently, on the sidelines of the **COP26 summit in Glasgow**, the Prime Minister of Palestine called for India's support to play a **stabilising role in West Asia** by maintaining cooperation with **all related parties**.

- This statement is significant in the context of India's External Affairs Minister visit to Israel, whereby he **excluded a trip to the Palestinian territory**.
- India in the recent year has been following a **dehyphenation policy** between Israel and Palestine.



India's Policy Towards Israel and Palestine:

- The **Israeli-Palestinian conflict** dates back to the end of the nineteenth century. It is linked to the **age-old tussle over identity and land** starting with Jerusalem.
- In 1947, the **United Nations (UN)** adopted **Resolution 181**, known as the Partition Plan, which sought to divide the **British Mandate of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states**.
- This led to unresolved conflict between Israel and Palestine.
- Traditionally, India's foreign policy towards Israel and Palestine has been a **hyphenated foreign policy**.
- However, **hyphenating the ties with Israel – linking them to ties with the Palestinian Authority – essentially prevented** India from pursuing a pragmatic policy of what was in **India's best interests**.
- In recent times, India is being seen shifted towards a **Dehyphenation of Policy**.

Dehyphenation of Policy:

- India's policy on the longest running conflict in the world **has gone from being unequivocally pro-Palestine for the first four decades, to a tense balancing act** with its three-decade-old friendly ties with Israel.
- In recent years, India's position has also been perceived as pro-Israel.
- In 2017, in an unprecedented move, India's PM visited **only Israel** and not Palestine.
- Then, the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Palestine, Oman and the UAE is again a continuation of similar policy.
- This departure from earlier policy and endorsing an independent policy towards these two rivals is called the **de-hyphenation in India's foreign policy**.
- It means India's relationship with Israel would stand on its own merits, independent and separate from India's relationship with the Palestinians.**
- The de-hyphenation is **actually a careful balancing act**, with India shifting from one side to another as the situation demands.
- As India moves towards **becoming a larger player in global politics and economics**, these pre-existing policies are increasingly in need of review, and de-hyphenating Israel and Palestine was a process long past its due date.
- In recent years, India has **broken the tradition of supporting Palestine at the UN**.
- In 2019, India voted in favour of Israel at the **ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council)** to deny observer status to a Palestinian organisation named Shahed.
- Further, India abstained during the voting on a resolution calling for investigation into Israeli actions in the Gaza Strip at the **Human Rights Council**.

#DELHI REGIONAL SECURITY DIALOGUE ON AFGHANISTAN

Recently, the **Delhi Regional Security Dialogue** on Afghanistan was held. The meeting was composed of National Security Advisors' (NSA) of regional countries and **chaired by the Indian NSA**.



- The meeting called for **"urgent humanitarian assistance"** to the Afghan people and urged close cooperation and consultation among the regional countries over the Afghan scenario.
- This is the **third meeting** of the Regional Security Dialogue (the earlier two meetings were held in Iran, in 2018 and 2019).
- Invited Participants:** Afghanistan's neighbours such as **Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan**, and other key players including **Russia, and China**.
- Need:** After the **withdrawal of US forces** and the **Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan**, India is concerned about security in the region.
- There is a possibility of terrorism spreading from the territory of Afghanistan.

Highlights of the Delhi Declaration:

- **Secure and Stable Afghanistan:** Reiterated strong support for a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan while emphasising the respect for sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and non-interference in its internal affairs.
- **Condemning Terrorism:** Committed to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
- Urged the regional members to ensure that Afghanistan would never become a safe haven for global terrorism.
- **Ensuring Fundamental Rights:** That is, the fundamental rights of women, children and minority communities are not violated.
- The assistance should be provided in non-discriminatory manner across all sections of the Afghan society.
- **Central Role of UN:** Recalling the relevant UN Resolutions on Afghanistan, they noted that the **United Nations' (UN)** continued presence in the country must be preserved.
- The recent **UN Resolution 2593** reiterates the importance of combating terrorism in Afghanistan, including those individuals and entities designated pursuant to **resolution 1267**.

Response by the Regional Countries:

- **Russia** held that **multiple dialogue mechanisms** “**should not complicate**” the unfolding situation in the Taliban controlled Afghanistan.
- **Pakistan and China** too were invited to participate in the consultation but both stayed away.
- Moreover, there was **no representation from the erstwhile Afghan government or the Taliban**.
- **Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan's NSAs did not mention the word terrorism** at all in their opening statements.
- **Other Afghan Peace Process Framework:**
- **Troika Plus Meeting on Afghanistan:** The U.S.-Russia-China-Pakistan grouping on Afghanistan peace process.
- **Moscow Format on Afghanistan:** It was set up by Russia for Peace and stability in Afghanistan in the year 2017.
- It is a six-party mechanism. It involved Russia, India, Afghanistan, Iran, China and Pakistan.

#INDIA LAUNCHED E-AMRIT PORTAL AT COP-26 SUMMIT

- India on November 10, 2021, launched an electric vehicle awareness web portal called **e-Amrit at the ongoing COP26 Summit in Glasgow, UK.**
- The **26th Conference of Parties (COP26) Summit** began on October 31, 2021 and will go on till November 12, 2021, in Glasgow, UK.



What is e-AMRIT Portal?

- **NITI Aayog on November 10, 2021, launched the e-AMRIT** (Accelerated e-Mobility Revolution for India's Transportation) web portal at COP26 Summit in Glasgow.
- E-AMRIT web portal has been developed in collaboration between **NITI Aayog and UK government as part of the India-UK Joint Roadmap 2030.**
- The e-AMRIT portal aims at creating awareness about electric mobility in India. It has been developed as a 'one-stop site' for all the **information related to the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in India.** The web portal will be accessible through different devices such as PCs, mobile phones, tablets, screen readers.
- NITI Aayog is working on adding more features and innovative tools to make the e-AMRIT portal more interactive and user-friendly.

E-AMRIT portal Features

- The e-AMRIT portal by offering access to information about electric vehicles aims to assist electric vehicle users or electric vehicle adopters to:
- **Feasibility research on switching to EV:** Switch to electric vehicles by offering insights about electric vehicle technologies, types of electric vehicles, insurance options, and financing options.
- **Knowledge repository on EV:** Set up the electric vehicle or associated enterprise by providing insights on the key initiatives of central and state governments.
- **Tools to calculate EV experience:** Assess the benefits of electric vehicles with uniquely designed tools to determine the users' savings with electric vehicles compared to petrol/diesel vehicles.
- **Information about EV businesses:** Get all the information on the Indian electric vehicle market and industry and the key developments driving the e-mobility ecosystem forward.

E-AMRIT Portal Significance

- The **e-AMRIT portal** aims to accelerate the initiatives of the government on raising awareness of electric vehicles and sensitizing consumers on the benefits of adopting electric vehicles.
- The e-AMRIT portal aims to be an accelerator of change and influence millions of users and stakeholders to adopt electric vehicles.
- The portal has been built to address the needs and priorities of future electric vehicle users, early electric

vehicle adopters, academia, government, industry, research community, and businesses.

- India has been implementing various initiatives for accelerating the decarbonization of transport and increasing the adoption of electric mobility in the country. **PLI and FAME are some of the schemes that are significant in the creation of an ecosystem for the early adoption of electric vehicles.**
- **PM Modi presented 5 goals of India at the COP26 Climate Summit to deal with the climate crisis.**
- India will achieve its net-zero carbon emissions target by 2070.
- India will bring its **non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030.**
- India will achieve **50 per cent of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030.**
- India will reduce the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now to 2030.
- India will reduce the carbon intensity of its economy to less than 45 per cent by 2030.
- PM Modi proposed a **One-Word Movement in the context of climate called LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**. He urged for collective participation to take LIFE forward as a campaign.

What is CoP?

- **The UN Climate Change Conferences are the yearly conferences that are held in the framework of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).**
- The conferences serve as the formal meeting of the UNFCCC Parties to assess the progress in dealing with the climate change. The **first UN Climate Change Conference was held in Berlin in 1995.** The conferences are also the platform for negotiating the **Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement.**

What is UNFCCC?

- The **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change** was first signed at the June 1992 **Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil by 154 countries.**
- It was intended as a treaty to rein in 'a dangerous human interference with the climate system', primarily by stabilizing the greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, whose dispersion drives global warming.
- The **UNFCCC framework called for an ongoing collaboration on scientific research.** It also suggested regular meetings, negotiations, and policy agreements between the world governments ensure the fragile ecosystems will not be damaged by climate change, **the global supply will remain unimpeded, and that the economic development can proceed sustainably.**

#BIDEN-XI 1ST VIRTUAL BILATERAL MEETING

Recently, **President Joe Biden** of the United States and Chinese **President Xi Jinping** met for the **first virtual bilateral meeting**. The meeting ended with the clear divergences in the positions taken by the two sides.



- US-China confrontation is on multiple fronts including ideological and cultural **hegemonic rivalry**, **trade wars** which have often been called the **New Cold War**.

US' Reservations Against China:

- **Human Rights Violations:** US raised concerns about the human rights violation practices in **Xinjiang (Uighur Muslims)**, **Tibet**, and **Hong Kong**.
- **Trade War:** US' **trade deficit** with China was around USD 375 billion for 2017. Due to this, former US President Donald Trump imposed import duties on Chinese exports to the US.
- The US president held that the need is to protect American workers and industries from China's unfair trade and economic practices.
- The US Treasury Department has declared China as a **currency manipulator**.
- **Free and Open Indo-Pacific:** China's **assertiveness in South China Sea**, claiming the majority of sea as its territory, has prompted the US to reiterate the importance of freedom of navigation and safe overflight to the region's prosperity.
- **Taiwan:** China and **Taiwan** separated amid civil war in 1949 and China considers Taiwan part of its territory to be taken control of by force if necessary. However, Taiwan's leaders say that Taiwan is a sovereign state.
- The US remains committed to the '**One China**' policy. However, it "strongly opposes unilateral efforts to change the status quo or undermine peace and stability across the **Taiwan Strait**".

China's Reservations Against US:

- **Alliances and Groupings:** China has raised reservations regarding the alliances and groupings led by the US. China held that these groupings created "divisions" in the world.
- This was a reference to the **Quad grouping**, which includes US, India, Australia and Japan and the **AUKUS deal** among Australia, UK and US to deliver nuclear-powered submarines to Australia.
- Moreover, the US has recently proposed to expand **G7 to G-11** without including China in it.
- **Competition for Dominating World Finances:** To counter the US-dominated **International Monetary Fund**, **World Bank** and **World Trade Organization**, China has come out with alternative financial institutions like **Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank**, and **New Development Bank**.

US-India-China Relations:

- **US Helping India address disputes with China:** US aims to support India via military, diplomatic and intelligence channels to help address continental challenges such as the **border dispute with China**.
- **US Supports India's reservations against Belt Road Initiative:** US seeks the transparent infrastructure-debt practices in the countries facing debt due to Chinese financing under **Belt Road Initiative**.
- **Build Back Better World (B3W)** is an international infrastructure investment initiative announced by the Group of Seven (G-7) richest democracies in June 2021.
- The B3W initiative is being seen as the US' initiative to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- **Balancing China:** The US is in favour of strong India, in cooperation with like-minded countries, which would act as a counterbalance to China in the **strategic Indo-Pacific region**.
- Due to this, India and the US have signed four fundamental defence agreements:
- **The General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA-2002).**
- **The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA-2016).**
- **The Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA-2018).**
- **The Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA-2020)**

Recent USA-China Rivalries:

- **Competition for dominating world finances:** To counter the USA-dominated International Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Trade Organization, China has come out with alternative financial institutions like **Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank**, and **New Development Bank**.
- **Contending influence over international groupings:** In order to contain rising China's assertiveness, the USA under its 'pivot to Asia policy' has launched a **Quad initiative, Indo pacific narrative**. Most recently, the USA proposed to expand G7 to G-11 without including China in it.
- **New Cold War:** USA-China confrontation is on multiple fronts including ideological and cultural hegemonic rivalry, trade wars which have often been called the **New Cold War**.

Belt & Road Initiative (BRI)

- **Belt & Road Initiative (BRI)** is an ambitious project that focuses on connectivity and cooperation among multiple countries spread across the continents of Asia, Africa, and Europe. BRI spans about 150 countries (China's Claim).
- Initially announced in the year 2013, the project involves **building networks of roadways, railways, maritime ports, power grids, oil and gas pipelines**, and associated infrastructure projects.
- The project covers two parts.
- **Silk Road Economic Belt:** It is land-based and is expected to connect China with Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and Western Europe.
- **21st Century Maritime Silk Road:** It is sea-based and is expected to connect China's southern coast to the Mediterranean, Africa, South-East Asia, and Central Asia.

#1ST JOINT NAVAL EXERCISE: UAE, US, ISRAEL & BAHRAIN

Forces from the **United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Israel and the United States Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT)** began a **multilateral maritime security operations exercise in the Red Sea.**



- This is the **first publicly acknowledged naval exercise** between the United States, Israel and the two Gulf countries.
- **About:** The **UAE and Bahrain in 2020 normalised diplomatic relations with Israel under a US-brokered deal known as the Abraham Accords**, brought together by shared worries about Iran and hopes of economic gains.
- The **US 5th Fleet/NAVCENT** is based in the Gulf island state of Bahrain and operates in the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean.
- Since February 2021, **Iran and Israel have been accused of engaging in what analysts have called a "shadow war"**, in which vessels linked to each nation have come under attack in waters around the Gulf in tit-for-tat exchanges.
- **Negotiations between Iran and major powers (P5+1) on reviving a 2015 nuclear deal** will resume in Vienna on 29th November 2021, with failure carrying the risk of a sharp spike in regional tensions.
- The **five-day exercise** in the Red Sea is **intended to enhance interoperability between participating forces.**
- Maritime collaboration **helps safeguard freedom of navigation and the free flow of trade**, which are essential to regional security and stability.
- The exercises include **boarding, search and seizure training on the USS Portland**, an amphibious transport dock ship.

Red Sea:

- The Red Sea is a **semi-enclosed tropical basin**, bounded by **northeastern Africa, to the west**, and the **Arabian peninsula, to the east.**
- The elongated and narrow-shaped basin **extends between the Mediterranean Sea, to the north-west, and the Indian Ocean, to the south-east.**
- At the northern end, it **separates into the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez**, which is connected to the Mediterranean Sea via the **Suez Canal.**
- At the southern end, it is **connected to the Gulf of Aden, and the outer Indian Ocean**, via the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb.
- It is **surrounded by desert or semi-desert areas**, with no major freshwater inflow.
- **6 Bordering Countries:** Yemen; Saudi Arabia; Egypt; Sudan; Eritrea; Djibouti.

The Abraham Accords

- The **Abraham Accord** between **Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain** is mediated by the USA. It is the **first Arab-Israeli peace deal in 26 years**.
- **Previous Agreements:** There were the **only two peace deals** between Israel and the Arab States in more than a quarter of a century.
- **Egypt was the first Arab State to sign a peace deal with Israel** in 1979.
- Jordan signed a peace pact in 1994.

The Agreement:

- As per the agreements, the UAE and Bahrain will establish:
- Embassies and exchange ambassadors.
- Working together with Israel across a range of sectors, including tourism, trade, healthcare and security.
- The Abraham Accords also open the door for Muslims around the world to visit the historic sites in Israel and to peacefully pray at Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, the **third holiest site in Islam**.
- In the Islamic tradition, **the Kaaba in Mecca** is considered the holiest site, followed by **the Prophet's Mosque** in Medina, and **Al-Aqsa Mosque** in Jerusalem.
- **Reason:** Bringing Israel, the UAE and Bahrain together reflects their shared concern about **Iran's rising influence** in the region and development of ballistic missiles. Iran has been critical of both deals.

Arab-Israel Relation

- Since Israeli independence in 1948, it has fought **several wars with Arab neighbouring countries**.
- The persecuted Jews saw Israel as their promised home while Arabs saw it as an occupation.

Significance of the Accord:

- The agreement shows how the Arab countries are gradually **decoupling themselves from the Palestine question**.
- Palestine was among former Ottoman territories placed under UK administration by the League of Nations in 1922. All of these territories eventually became fully independent States, except Palestine.
- **Full diplomatic ties** will be established between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain which will have a positive impact on the entire region.
- The deal buys UAE a lot of **goodwill in the US**, where its image has been tarnished by its involvement in the **Yemen war**.
- **In South Asia, it will put Pakistan in a bind**, whether to follow UAE's steps (will be seen as giving up Islamic cause of Palestine) or not to follow the UAE (since it is already in feud with the Saudis over not taking up the Kashmir case, Pakistan cannot afford another hostile Islamic Country).

#1ST FEMALE ACTING PRESIDENT OF USA: KAMALA HARRIS

- **US Vice-President Kamala Harris became the first female acting President of the United States** for one hour and 25 minutes when US President Joe Biden temporarily transferred power to Harris while he went under anesthesia for a routine colonoscopy.
- With this development, 57-years-old Kamala Harris is now the **first woman ever who held presidential powers in the 250-years-old history of the US.**
- Kamala Harris is the first woman, **first African-American and first Asian-American, first Indian-American** who holds the second-most powerful position in the US.
- **Harris was elected US Vice-President on November 7, 2020**, after Joe Biden was declared the President of the United States in the US Presidential Elections 2020.



How did Kamala Harris become the first woman with presidential powers?

- US President Joe Biden underwent his first routine **annual physical checkup at Walter Reed Medical Center since taking the office.**
- Following this, it is a protocol for a **Vice-President to assume Presidential powers** while the President undergoes a medical procedure that requires sedation or anesthesia.

What is the procedure to transfer Presidential Powers to Vice-President in the US?

- **Section 3 of the 25th Amendment to the US Constitution** says the President can send a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate declaring they are "unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be **discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.**"
- **As per Section 3 of the 25th Amendment to the US Constitution**, US President Joe Biden wrote a letter to the House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Democratic Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont (who is the president pro tempore of the Senate) for the official transfer of the Presidential Powers to **US Vice-President Kamala Harris before he underwent the routine checkup.**
- The **25th Amendment of the US Constitution** comprises the procedure through which a President or Vice-President of the US can be replaced in the event of death, resignation, removal or incapacitation. The 25th Amendment was enacted **following the death of former US President John F Kennedy who was assassinated.**

Past instances of transfer of Presidential Powers in the US

- In the past, US presidents have transferred **Presidential Powers** while they underwent routine medical checkups which include a colonoscopy that may require sedation or anesthesia.

- Former US President George W Bush had undergone the routine colonoscopy twice (2002 and 2007) during which he transferred his **Presidential Powers to then Vice-President Dick Cheney** for a couple of hours.
- **Former US President Donald Trump** has been an exception who did not undergo sedation or anesthesia during his routine colonoscopy in 2019 and hence did not transfer his **Presidential Powers to then Vice-President Mike Pence**.

Five Firsts after US elections

- Joe Biden has become the **oldest President of the United States**.
- Kamala Harris has become the **first female Vice President of the States**.
- **Vice President Harris** has also become the **first Asian, African-American to hold the first**.
- **Douglas Emhoff**, the husband of the Vice President has become first Second Gentleman of the United States.
- **Douglas Emhoff** has also become the first Jewish spouse to the US vice president.

#UK TO HOST G7 FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING

- The **United Kingdom** is all set to host a summit of Foreign and Development Ministers from the G7 in December 2021 in the city of Liverpool, UK.
- The **Foreign Secretary of the UK Liz Truss** will welcome the counterparts from France, the US, **Italy, Canada, Germany, European Union, and Japan** over three days i.e. from December 10 to 12, 2021.
- The **United Kingdom is holding the G7 Presidency in 2021** and this will also be the second in-person gathering of the G7 Foreign Ministers in 2021. The leaders met in May this year.
- Notably, the countries from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will also attend the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meetings for the first time, indicating UK's growing Indo-Pacific tilt.



G7 Foreign Ministers' Meet in UK

- The **UK Foreign and Development Ministers** will be discussing the range of global issues, global health, economic resilience post-COVID, and human rights.
- G7 Ministers Meet comes after a series of global summits around the UK in 2021. The other meetings include the COP Climate summit in Glasgow and the **G7 Leaders Summit hosted by the Prime Minister of the UK in June 2021**.
- Among the ASEAN Foreign Ministers who will attend the **G7 Foreign Ministers meeting** are those from **Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia**.

Why Liverpool has been chosen to host the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meet?

- Liverpool has been chosen for hosting the meeting because of its history as an iconic city with a global outlook, strong ties around the world, and a thriving musical, cultural and sporting heritage.
- The **meeting of G7 Foreign and Development Ministers in Liverpool** will be a fantastic opportunity of showcasing Liverpool to the world, further highlighting the best of British culture, commerce, and creativity.
- The UK Foreign Secretary also said that G7 countries will be hosted to discuss the ways to build closer technology, economic, and security ties globally and to deliver to the British people.

Group of Seven (G7)

- It is an **intergovernmental organisation** that was formed in **1975**.
- The bloc **meets annually** to discuss issues of **common interest like global economic governance, international security and energy policy**.
- The G7 countries are the **UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US**.
- **All the G7 countries and India are a part of G20.**
- The G7 **does not have a formal constitution or a fixed headquarters**. The decisions taken by leaders during annual summits are non-binding.

#INDIA INVITED AT BIDEN'S DEMOCRACY SUMMIT

- The President of the United States Joe Biden has invited **more than 100 countries to a virtual summit on democracy** to be held on December 9-10, 2021. The invite list of the democracy summit **includes India and Taiwan but excludes China, a move which is bound to anger the country**.
- The virtual democracy summit was a campaign pledge by the US President, who placed the struggle between the democracies and the autocratic governments at the heart of his foreign policy.
- The **Summit for Democracy** will be taking place ahead of an in-person meeting at its second edition in 2022.
- The main rivals of the United States- Russia and China- have been excluded from the list, however, the inclusion of Taiwan is guaranteed to further escalate the tensions between US and China.
- It is widely known that **China resists any use of the word 'Taiwan' as it lends a sense of international legitimacy to the democratic self-ruled island, which China claims as part of its territory and has also vowed to seize one day**.



Who is invited?

- To a virtual summit on democracy, including the major western alliances, **the US has invited India and Pakistan from the South Asia region**.
- From East Asia, **Japan is invited to the summit**.

- Taiwan is invited to the virtual summit on democracy. A major diplomatic move that will further escalate the tensions between US and China.
- Among the Middle East countries, **only Iraq and Israel** have been invited to the summit on Democracy.
- Brazil is invited even though **Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil's far-right President** has been criticized as having an authoritarian bent. He was also a firm supporter of Donald Trump.
- **Poland has been invited to the summit** despite the **continuous tension with the EU** over its human rights record. Philippines is also invited.
- In Africa, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, and Nigeria are invited to Biden Democracy Summit.

Who is not invited?

- China and Russia, the principal rivals of the United States are not invited to Democracy Summit. Turkey is missing from the participant's list. The country is also US's NATO ally.
- Traditional Arab allies of the United States- Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, are not on the democracy summit invite list.
- As per the list posted on the US State Department website, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka are excluded from the summit.
- **Hungary is not invited.** The country is led by the hardline nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

Three principal themes at democracy summit

- While announcing the Democracy Summit the US had said that the meeting on democracy **will stimulate the initiatives and commitments across three principal themes:**
- Defending against authoritarianism
- Fighting Corruption
- Promoting Respect for Human Rights

Democracy Summit: Why it is being organized?

- A Virtual Summit on Democracy is being **organized by the United States** as the democracy has suffered major setbacks in the nations where the country had placed great hopes.
- **Myanmar and Sudan have experienced military coups.** Taliban has taken over Afghanistan after the withdrawal of US troops and Ethiopia is in the midst of a conflict that can lead to its implosion.

#BARBADOS DECLARED NEW REPUBLIC AFTER 400 YEARS

- Barbados has ditched the **Queen Elizabeth of Britain as the Head of the State.** The Caribbean country formed a Republic with its **first-ever President Sandra Mason** and severed its last-remaining colonial bonds nearly 400 later after the first British ships arrived at the Caribbean Island.
- **New Republic Barbados was born at the stroke of midnight to the cheers of hundreds of people lining Chamberlain Bridge in the Capital of Barbados, Bridgetown.** On the occasion, a 21-gun salute was fired as the National Anthem of Barbados was played over a crowded Heroes Square.

- Heir to the British throne, Prince Charles stood somberly as Queen Elizabeth's royal standard was lowered and the new Barbados was declared. The President of Barbados Sandra Mason said that the people of the country must give the Republic of Barbados its spirit and substance.



- **Barbados becomes a Republic: What it means?**
- As Barbados becomes a new Republic, it means that the small island nation has transitioned from a parliamentary constitutional monarchy under the hereditary monarch of Barbados to the Parliamentary Republic with the President elected as the Head of the State.

Barbados declares New Republic

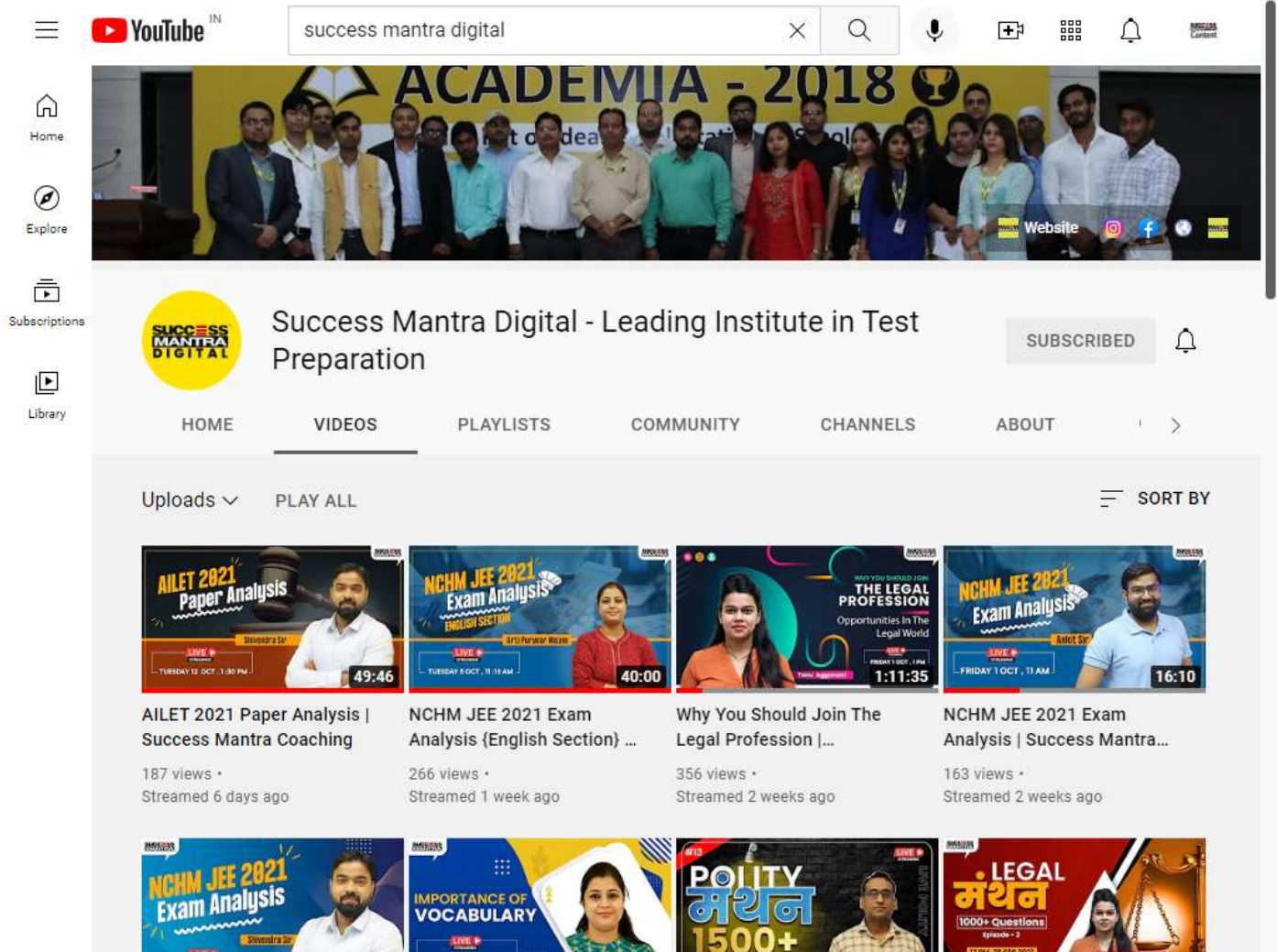
- As **Barbados was declared Republic after 400 years of under British rule**, the move has cast the removal of Queen Elizabeth II as a way to finally break from the demons of Colonial History. However, she is still a queen of 15 other realms including **Australia, the United Kingdom, Jamaica, and Canada**.
- The birth of the Republic of Barbados, 55 years to the day since the Caribbean country was declared independent, has broken up almost all the colonial bonds that kept the tiny island tied to England since the British Ship claimed it for King James I in 1625.
- Prince Charles, whose mother sent her warmest wishes, said that the creation of this **Republic offers a new beginning**.

Barbados becomes a Republic: What it means for other colonial nations

- The declaration of Barbados as Republic can also be a harbinger of a broader attempt by the other former colonies to cut the ties to the British Monarchy as the country braces for the end of Queen Elizabeth's nearly 70-year reign and the future accession of Prince Charles.

Salve history of Barbados

- Britishers had initially used the white British indentured servants to toil on the plantations of cotton, indigo, tobacco, and sugar, however, **Barbados in just a few decades became England's first truly profitable slave society**.
- The small island received 6, 00,000 enslaved Africans between 1627 and 1833, who were then out to work in sugar plantations in Barbados, which helped in earning fortunes for the English owners.
- More than 10 million Africans were shackled into the Atlantic Slave Trade by the European Nations between the **15th and 19th Centuries**.



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