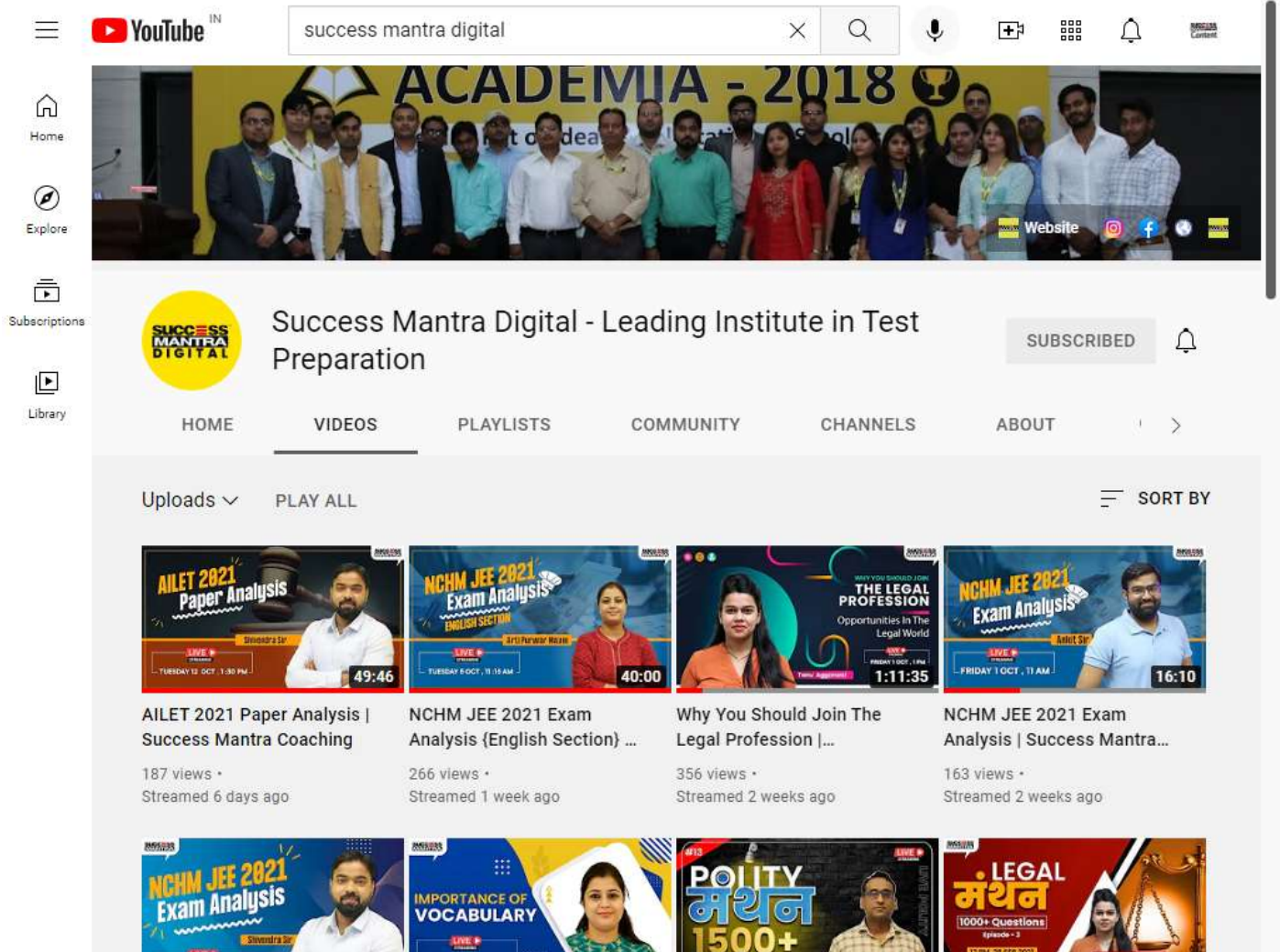


# **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**DECEMBER 2021**





YouTube IN success mantra digital

ACADEMIA - 2018

Success Mantra Digital - Leading Institute in Test Preparation

SUBSCRIBED

HOME VIDEOS PLAYLISTS COMMUNITY CHANNELS ABOUT

Uploads ▾ PLAY ALL SORT BY

AILET 2021 Paper Analysis | Success Mantra Coaching  
187 views • Streamed 6 days ago

NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis (English Section) ...  
266 views • Streamed 1 week ago

Why You Should Join The Legal Profession | ...  
356 views • Streamed 2 weeks ago

NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis | Success Mantra...  
163 views • Streamed 2 weeks ago

NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis | Success Mantra...  
16:10

IMPORTANCE OF VOCABULARY  
LIVE

POLITY मंथन 1500+  
LIVE

LEGAL मंथन 1000+ Questions  
LIVE

Subscribe Our YouTube Channel  
**SUCCESS MANTRA DIGITAL**  
And Ace Your Entrance!!



## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### #21<sup>ST</sup> INDIA-RUSSIA ANNUAL SUMMIT

- Recently, the **21<sup>st</sup> India-Russia annual summit** took place at New Delhi which also included the first 2+2 ministerial dialogue of **India's foreign and defence ministers with their Russian counterparts**.
- This **first face-to-face bilateral meeting of the Russian President** with any country since the onset of the pandemic signifies that the long-standing relations between the two are still as strong as ever.
- However, the continuing conflict **between Russia and the West** and the absence of a thriving commercial relationship between India and Russia are the obstacles in reviving the bilateral partnership between the two.



### India and Russia

- Diplomatic Ties:** India and Russia are together in multiple forums including **BRICS** and **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**. India helped the induction of Russia as a dialogue partner in the **Indian Ocean Rim Association** which may give Russia a major role in the Indian Ocean.
- Russia also **helped Indian and Chinese Foreign Ministers to meet and diffuse the stalemate in Ladakh** on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Moscow.
- Also, in the **UNSC conference on maritime security** chaired by India, **Russia displayed its proximity to the former**.

### India-Russia Annual Summit:

- It is the **highest institutionalized dialogue mechanism** in the strategic partnership between India and Russia.
- The latest summit is an institution of a new “two plus two” mechanism bringing the foreign and defence ministers from both sides into a single forum.
- There is also **speculation about a new 10-year defence pact** between the two countries.
- Russia became the fourth nation**, along with the US, Japan and Australia, with which India has such a joint structure in place.
- Recent Cooperation in Defence:** Currently, **65% of Indian armed forces equipment is of Russian origin** and India continues to rely on Russia for spares.
- Despite strong US opposition, India procured the **S-400 Triumf Missile** from Russia.
- A deal worth over ₹5,000 crore with Russia for the manufacture of AK 203 assault rifles is also in the pipeline.
- For now, India has escaped the **US sanctions on the purchase of S-400 missiles**, however, India's deepening defence ties with Russia will continue to trouble the USA as well as China.
- Economic Domain of Relations:** India and Russia have greater freedom in the economic domain but their failure to boost the commercial relationship has been stark.

- India-Russia **annual trade is worth about only \$10 billion** whereas the latter's annual trade with China is a little more than \$100 billion.
- India's goods trade with the US and China is at the level of \$100 billion.
- **Significance of India for Russia:** Persistent conflict with the US, Europe, and Japan have moved Moscow closest ever to Beijing. However, Russia is well aware of the dangers of relying solely on a neighbour like China.
- While resetting its relations with the West still has a lot to cover, sustaining the **traditional partnership with India holds political value** to Moscow.

## Issues in India-Russia Ties:

- India remains wary of the **growing military partnership between Russia and China** and their shared **opposition to the Indo-Pacific framework**.
- Despite political tensions, India's China trade continues to grow, while its **commercial ties with Russia are stagnant despite good political relations**.
- The Russian business elites gravitate to Europe and China and the Indian corporations are focused on America and China.
- Russia **considers the Quad as the 'Asian NATO'** and has claimed military alliances in Asia as counterproductive.

## Conclusion

- **Befriending the Best Friend:** The structural constraints posed by the great power dynamic and vastly different appreciation of the regional security environment could be reduced if matters improve between Washington and Moscow.
- A less conflictual relationship between the two will be a huge relief for India.
- Also, the US-China quest for power or Russia's deepening ties with China would have mattered less to India if its relations with China were more peaceful and stable.
- **Connecting with the Russian Far-East:** Connectivity is another driver in the strategic partnership with underlying commercial advantages and overall economic development.
- Parallel to the multimodal International **North-South Transport Corridor**, the proposed **Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Corridor (CVMC)** will **sharpen India's strategic intent in the South China Sea** and the Indo-Pacific region, with a naval presence securing its energy and trade shipments from the Russian Far East.
- The far-flung regions of Siberia, the Arctic and the Far East are home to one of the largest reserves of hydrocarbon, metallurgical coke, rare-earth and precious metals in the world.
- India and Russia can work with countries like Japan and Korea to **promote joint investments for exploration in the Far East, the Arctic and Siberia**.
- **Cooperation in the Energy Sector:** The unknowns of climate change suggest that India should accelerate its energy transition from fossil fuel based to a renewable one.
- Russia, one of the key global players across the energy market, could **emerge as an indispensable partner for such a transition**.

- Fortunately, both countries have an extensive record of bilateral cooperation in the energy domain but undoubtedly more efforts are needed to expand the cooperation.
- **Leveraging Multilateral Institutions for Improving Relations:** Promote mutually beneficial trilateral cooperation between Russia, China and India that could contribute towards the reduction of mistrust and suspicion between India and China.
- In this context, the SCO and **RIC trilateral forum** must be leveraged.

### BRICS

- BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- The **BRICS Leaders' Summit is convened annually**.
- BRICS does not exist in form of organization, but it is an annual summit between the supreme leaders of five nations.
- The Chairmanship of the forum is rotated annually among the members, **in accordance with the acronym B-R-I-C-S**.
- BRICS cooperation in the past decade has expanded to include an **annual programme of over 100 sectoral meetings**.

### Salient Features

- Together, BRICS accounts for about 40% of the world's population and about **30% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product)**, making it a **critical economic engine**.
- It's an emerging **investment market and global power bloc**.
- The **acronym "BRICS"** was initially formulated in 2001 by economist Jim O'Neill, of Goldman Sachs, in a report on growth prospects for the economies of **Brazil, Russia, India and China** – which together represented a significant share of the world's production and population.
- In 2006, the four countries initiated a regular informal diplomatic coordination, with annual meetings of Foreign Ministers at the margins of the **General Debate of the UN General Assembly (UNGA)**.
- This successful interaction led to the decision that the dialogue was to be carried out at the level of Heads of State and Government in annual Summits.
- **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation:**
- It is a **permanent intergovernmental international organisation**. It was **created in 2001**.
- The **SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and entered into force in 2003**.
- It's a **Eurasian political, economic and military organisation** aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- It is seen as a counterweight to **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**, It is a **nine-member economic and security bloc** and has emerged as one of the **largest trans-regional international organisations**.

### Genesis:

- Prior to the creation of SCO in 2001, **Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan were members of the Shanghai Five**.



- Shanghai Five (1996) emerged from a series of border demarcation and demilitarization talks which the four former Soviet republics held with China to ensure stability along the borders.
- Following the accession of Uzbekistan to the organization in **2001, the Shanghai five was renamed the SCO.**
- **India** and Pakistan became members **in 2017. Iran is the ninth and the newest member of SCO.**
- **India was made an observer at the SCO in 2005** and has generally participated in the ministerial-level meetings of the grouping which focus mainly on security and economic cooperation in the Eurasian region.

## #WHAT IS THE CONFLICT B/W RUSSIA & UKRAINE?

Recently, the US intelligence reports said the tension on the **Russia-Ukraine** border represents a **major security crisis for the region**, with the potential to snowball into a broader conflict.



- Ukraine says that **Russia has amassed around 90,000 troops at the border.**
- **Background:** Ukraine and Russia share hundreds of years of **cultural, linguistic and familial links.**
- For many in Russia and in the ethnically Russian parts of Ukraine, the **shared heritage of the countries** is an emotional issue that has been exploited for electoral and military purposes.
- As part of the Soviet Union, Ukraine was the **second-most powerful Soviet republic after Russia**, and was **crucial strategically, economically and culturally.**

### Cause of Conflict:

- **Balance of Power:** Ever since Ukraine split from the Soviet Union, both Russia and the West have vied for greater influence in the country in order to keep the balance of power in the region in their favour.
- **Buffer Zone for Western Countries:** For the US and the **European Union**, Ukraine is a crucial buffer between Russia and the West.
- As tensions with Russia rise, the US and the EU are increasingly determined to keep Ukraine away from Russian control.
- **Russian Interest in Black Sea:** The **unique geography of the Black Sea region** confers several geopolitical advantages to Russia.
- Firstly, it is an **important crossroads and strategic intersection** for the entire region.
- Access to the Black Sea is **vital for all littoral and neighboring states**, and greatly enhances the projection of power into several adjacent regions.
- Secondly, the region is an **important transit corridor for goods and energy.**

## Invasion of Crimea:

- Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine in what was the **first time a European country annexed territory from another country since World War-2**.
- The annexation of Crimea from Ukraine followed a **Russian military intervention in Crimea** that took place in the aftermath of the 2014 Ukrainian revolution and was part of wider unrest across southern and eastern Ukraine.
- The invasion and subsequent annexation of Crimea have given Russia a **maritime upperhand in the region**.
- **Ukraine's NATO Membership:** Ukraine has urged the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** to speed up his country's membership in the alliance.
- Russia has declared such a move a **"red line"**, and worried about the consequences of the US-led military alliances expanding right up to its doorstep.
- The Black Sea is bordered by Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine. All these countries are NATO countries.
- Due to this faceoff between NATO countries and Russia, the Black sea is a region of strategic importance & a potential maritime flashpoint.

## Minsk Agreements:

- **Minsk I:** Ukraine and the Russian-backed separatists agreed a **12-point ceasefire deal in the capital of Belarus** in September 2014.
- Its provisions included prisoner exchanges, deliveries of humanitarian aid and the withdrawal of heavy weapons.
- The agreement quickly broke down, with violations by both sides.
- **Minsk II:** In 2015, an open conflict was averted after the 'Minsk II' peace agreement was signed, under the mediation of France and Germany.
- It was **designed to end the fighting in the rebel regions** and hand over the border to Ukraine's national troops.
- It was signed by Representatives of Russia, Ukraine, the **Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)** and the leaders of two pro-Russian separatist regions.
- OSCE is the world's largest security-oriented intergovernmental organisation. Its mandate includes issues such as arms control, promotion of human rights, freedom of the press, and fair elections.

## Current Situation:

- Russia is **seeking assurances** from the US that Ukraine will **not be inducted into NATO**. However, the US is not prepared to give any such assurance.
- This has left the countries in a stand-off, with tens of thousands of Russian troops ready to invade Ukraine.
- Russia is **keeping the tensions high at the Ukraine border** in order to get **sanctions relief and other concessions from the West**.
- Any kind of military action by the US or EU against Russia would **precipitate a major crisis for the whole world**, and has so far not been mooted by any of the parties involved.

### India's Stand:

- India **did not join the Western powers' condemnation of Russia's intervention** in Crimea and kept a low profile on the issue.
- In November 2020, **India voted against a Ukraine-sponsored resolution in the United Nations (UN)** that condemned alleged human rights violations in Crimea thereby backing old ally Russia on the issue.

### Black Sea

- The Black Sea is located between Eastern Europe and Western Asia.
- It is surrounded by the Pontic, Caucasus, and Crimean Mountains in the south, east and north respectively.
- The Black Sea is also connected to the **Sea of Azov** by the **Strait of Kerch**.
- The **Turkish straits system** - the Dardanelles, Bosphorus and Marmara Sea - forms a transitional zone between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.
- **Bordering countries of Black Sea are:** Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania.
- There is a significant **absence of oxygen** in the water (anoxic waters).



## #3<sup>RD</sup> INDIA-CENTRAL ASIA DIALOGUE

Recently, the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the **India-Central Asia Dialogue** was held in New Delhi.

It is ministerial-level dialogue b/w India and the **Central Asian countries** namely **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan**.

- India virtually hosted the second meeting of the **India-Central Asia Dialogue** in 2020.

## International North-South Transport Corridor:

- Emphasis on **optimum usage of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** as well as **Ashgabat Agreement** on International Transport and Transit Corridor to enhance connectivity



between India and the Central Asian countries.

- Stressed on including **Chabahar Port** within the framework of INSTC and expressed interest in **cooperation** on issues related to the **development and strengthening of regional connectivity** in Central and South Asia.
- Agreed to **develop the transit and transport potential of their countries**, improve the regional logistics network and promote joint initiatives to create new transport corridors.
- Agreed to explore the possibility of **establishing joint working groups** to address the **free movements of goods and services** between India and the Central Asian states.
- Connectivity Projects:** The connectivity initiatives (**China's Belt and Road Initiative**) should be based on the principles of transparency, broad participation, local priorities, financial sustainability and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries.

## Situation of Afghanistan:

- Discussed the **current situation in Afghanistan** and its impact on the region, following the **Taliban's occupancy**.
- Issues like current humanitarian situation, terrorism, territorial integrity, respect for sovereignty and unity were discussed too.

- Pushed for concerted action against all terror groups.
- The Afghanistan's soil must not be used for planning terror attacks, even as they pledged to provide immediate humanitarian aid to the Afghan people.
- Condemned **all forms of terrorism** and opposed "providing safe haven, using terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism, terror financing, arms and drugs trafficking, dissemination of a radical ideology and abuse of cyber space to spread disinformation and incite violence."
- Supported a **peaceful and stable Afghanistan** and emphasised respect for **sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in its internal affairs**.
- Pointed to the importance of **UN Security Council Resolution 2593**, which "unequivocally demands that Afghan territory not be used for sheltering, training, planning or financing terrorist acts and called for concerted action against all terrorist groups".

### Counter Terrorism Efforts:

- Perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of terror acts must be brought to justice in accordance with principle of "extradite or prosecute".
- Called on the world community to implement relevant **UN resolutions, global counter-terrorism strategy** and **Financial Action Task Force standards**.
- **Post-pandemic Recovery:** All the countries stressed the importance of extensive vaccination and called for **cooperation through sharing of vaccine doses, transfer of technology, development of local production capacities, promotion of supply chains for medical products, and ensuring price transparency**.

### Restoration of Tourism:

- Backed the **gradual restoration of tourism and business ties** between India and the Central Asian countries.
- The foreign ministers of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan welcomed the **mutual recognition of Covid-19 vaccination certificates** between India and their countries, while the ministers of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan sought early mutual recognition of certificates.
- **Historical and Cultural Ties:** Need to **build on the historical and cultural ties of their region** with India and highlight the **potential for cooperation** in areas such as connectivity, transport, transit and energy.
- **International Solar Alliance (ISA):** India highlighted the role of "**International Solar Alliance (ISA)**" initiative in collective, rapid and massive deployment of solar energy for effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure:** India also underlined the role of "**Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**" in promoting disaster resilient infrastructure for reducing economic losses.
- **Permanent membership at UNSC:** Reiterated support of their countries for **permanent membership of India** in an expanded and reformed **UN Security Council (UNSC)**.
- Welcomed the ongoing **non-permanent tenure of India in the UNSC** and its priorities.
- **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation:** Appreciated the important role of the **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)** Programme in **capacity building and human resource**

**development** of their countries, especially in **Information Technology and Communication Skills** in the **English language**.

- **India-Central Asia Dialogue:** It is a ministerial-level dialogue between India and the **Central Asian** countries namely **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan**.
- All five nations became independent states after the collapse of the USSR in 1991, post-**Cold war**.
- All the countries participating in the dialogue, except for Turkmenistan, are also members of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation**.
- The dialogue focuses on a number of issues including ways to improve connectivity and stabilise war-ravaged Afghanistan.

## #PM MODI AT 'SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY'

Recently, the **Summit for Democracy** was hosted by the **United States** "to renew democracy at home and confront autocracies abroad".

- The **US President** also announced the establishment of the **Presidential Initiative for Democratic Renewal** that will provide foreign assistance initiatives.
- The initiative will be powered by \$424.4 million and will be aimed to support free media, fight corruption, and strengthen democratic reforms, for use of technology for democracy and for defence of free and fair elections.



### About:

- It aims to **show how open, rights-respecting societies can work together** to effectively tackle the challenges of present time, such as the **Covid-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, and inequality**.
- The Summit was centered around three principal themes:
- Defending against **authoritarianism**
- Addressing and fighting **corruption**
- Advancing respect for **human rights**

### India's Stand:

- **Democracies** should jointly deal with **social media and crypto currencies**, so that they are used to empower democracy, not to undermine it.
- India is the **largest democracy in the world** which has 2,500-year-old democratic traditions and **proposes to share India's democratic experience** through digital solutions.
- Referred to the **civilisational tradition of democracy in India** citing the ancient city states under the Lichhavis and other people that flourished in India during the late Vedic and Buddhist period and continued to the early medieval period.
- **Democracy has taken various shapes across the world** and there is a need to work on the **democratic practices and symptoms**.

- It is needed to constantly **improve the democratic practices and systems** and to continuously enhance inclusion, transparency, human dignity, responsive grievance redressal and decentralization of power.

## Democracy

- Democracy is a **system of government** in which the citizens exercise power directly or elect representatives from among themselves to form a governing body, such as a parliament.
- It is also referred to as "**rule of the majority**". Here the power can't be inherited. People elect their leaders.
- Representatives stand in an election and the citizens vote for their representative. The representative with the most number of votes gets the power.
- Brief History:** India is the world's largest democracy. India became a democratic nation post its **independence in the year 1947**. Thereafter, the citizens of India were given the right to vote and elect their leaders.

## India's Role in Strengthening Democracy:

- Around the World: Capacity Building:**
- Beyond demonstrating the **Election Commission (EC)**'s enviable record in conducting free and fair elections, India **has given training to the thousands of electoral officials** from Asia, Africa, and other regions of the world in election management and parliamentary affairs for several decades.
- Developmental Partnership Administration (DPA):** India has created a Developmental Partnership Administration (DPA) within the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to **offer critical development assistance projects** for many developing and new democracies across geographies.
- Examples:** The building of the Afghan Parliament, providing support to Myanmar for upgrading its administrative and judicial capabilities, amongst others.
- Funding to Democracy Watch Dogs:** Together with the US, India was instrumental in the creation of the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) and the Community of Democracies to support democracy at international levels.
- Incidentally, **India is one of the largest contributors to UNDEF** that supports 66 NGO-led projects in South Asia.
- United Nations Democracy Caucus:** India also helped to form the **United Nations Democracy Caucus**, the only body within the UN system to **convene democratic states** based on shared values.

## In India:

- Breaking Racial Discrimination:** India has **given representation to a Dalit woman** to rise to the highest office (as Chief Minister).
- Right to Information Act, 2005:** The act, a **totally civil society driven grassroots movement** has truly democratised information spaces for ordinary citizens.
- Democratic Decentralization:** Twin **constitutional amendments (73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup>) in 1992** to create third-tier governments (rural and urban local bodies), has taken deep ground in the last three decades.
- With 3 million representatives at **various levels (Gram Sabha, Panchayat Samiti, and Zilla Parishad)**, this is by far the largest democratic exercise anywhere in the world.

## Concerns Related to Democracy:

- **World: Decline in Political Rights and Civil Liberties:**
- Democracies across the world—rich and established, developing and newly established ones—are grappling with serious crises on many key parameters.
- According to the reports of leading democracy watchdogs, democracy is witnessing an alarming decline.
- According to **Democracy Index 2020**, as low as **9% of the world population live in a “full” democracy**.
- The recent **military coups in Myanmar, Tunisia, and Sudan** are testimonies to the steady rise of anti-democratic forces and the failure of the global democracy collective to do anything meaningful to stem the rot.

## Rising Authoritarian:

- Rising threats stemming from the steady rise of **authoritarian powers, particularly China** is a major concern.
- At a time when the West, particularly the US and rich European countries, have considerably ceded their global commitment to democratic values, **China has set its eyes on re-defining global human rights** and democracy norms.
- **Examples:** China has **marshaled the military and diplomatic means to threaten Taiwan**, forced territorial claims in the disputed **South China Sea**, thrown millions of **Uyghur Muslims** in internment camps, curbed political freedoms in **Hong Kong**, and launched influence operations across many geographies.
- **India's:** The **Freedom House 2021 report** put India as only “**partly free**”, the V-Dem report went a step ahead to call it an “**electoral autocracy**”.
- According to the **Global State of Democracy 2021** report, India was amongst the **10 most backsliding democracies**—a more severe and deliberate kind of democratic erosion.



## #INDIA JOINS G20 'TROIKA' WITH INDONESIA & ITALY

Recently, India joined the **G20 'Troika'** and with this **India has started the procedure** for taking over the **G20** presidency next year.

- **About 'Troika':** It refers to the **top grouping within the G20** that consists of the current, previous and the incoming presidencies — **Indonesia, Italy and India**.
- As a Troika member, **India will work closely with Indonesia and Italy** to ensure consistency and continuity of the G20's agenda.



- India will **assume the G20 presidency** on **1<sup>st</sup> December 2022** from Indonesia, and will convene the **G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time** in India in **2023**.
- Italy hosted the **G20 summit during October 30-31, 2021** where India had raised the issue of **Afghanistan's future** following the takeover by the Taliban.
- Indonesia took over the **G20 presidency from 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021** and in the coming months, **Indonesia will hold rounds of discussion at various levels** among the members of the G20 before convening the G20 Leaders' Summit scheduled for October 30-31, 2022.
- **Next year's summit** will be organized along the overall theme of **"Recover Together, Recover Stronger"**.

### About G20:

- 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 (GDP)**, 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.

## Mandate of the Grouping:

- The **G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation**, which reflects recognition that global prosperity is interdependent and the economic opportunities and challenges are interlinked.
- G20 countries have **come together to better prepare** for the future.
- The primary mandate of the grouping is for **International Economic cooperation** with particular emphasis to prevent future financial crises across the world.
- It plays a significant role in **shaping the global economic agenda**.
- **From 1999-2008** the forum exalted from a grouping of Central bank governors and finance ministers to **Heads of states**.

## India and G20:

- **As a founding member of the G20**, India has **used the platform to raise issues** of vital importance and those that impact on the most vulnerable around the world.
- The global economic agenda making forum is to be presided over by India in 2022, it's a **challenge as well as an opportunity for India** to foster its presence in the international arena.
- But due to the **rising toll of unemployment rates and poverty** in the domestic portion, it's hard to take the lead effectively.

## #NUCLEAR SUBMARINE ALLIANCE: AUKUS

Recently, **Australia, the US and the UK** signed an agreement allowing the exchange of sensitive “**naval nuclear propulsion information**” between their nations.

- It is the first agreement on the technology to be publicly signed since the three countries announced the formation of a **defence alliance, AUKUS**, to confront strategic tensions in the Pacific where China-US rivalry is growing.
- Under the AUKUS deal, Australia would obtain **eight state-of-the-arts, nuclear-powered but conventionally armed submarines** capable of stealthy, long-range missions.



## AUKUS

In September 2021, the US announced a new trilateral security partnership for the **Indo-Pacific**, between **Australia, the UK and the US (AUKUS)**.

- The major highlight of this arrangement is the sharing of US nuclear submarine technology to Australia.
- Its Indo-Pacific orientation **makes it an alliance against China's assertive actions in the South China Sea**.

- It will involve a **new architecture of meetings and engagements between the three countries**, as well as cooperation across emerging technologies (**applied AI, quantum technologies and undersea capabilities**).

### Impact on Indo-Pacific Realm/QUAD:

- There is concern that AUKUS **could leave a deep scar on US-EU relations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)**, and weaken the international coalition in the Indo-Pacific.
- NATO was established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- NATO's primary goals are the collective defence of its members and the maintenance of a democratic peace in the North Atlantic area.
- France had cancelled a scheduled meeting of the foreign ministers of Australia, France, and India at **the UN**.
- In the last couple of years, the trilateral has become an important element in the emerging Indo-Pacific architecture. But the cancellation of the meeting is a blow to the trilateral engagement.
- It is not clear whether **the QUAD and AUKUS will reinforce each other** or remain mutually exclusive.
- There are some beliefs that the "Anglosphere nations" — which share common cultural and historical ties to the UK — inspire more confidence in each other.
- **QUAD is a grouping of India, USA, Australia and Japan** which aims to safeguard the interests of democratic nations in the Indo-Pacific region and address global challenges.

### Implications for India:

- India has stated that the **new partnership is neither relevant to the Quad, nor will it have any impact on its functioning**.
- Despite indifference towards AUKUS, India **may derive secondary benefits from the AUKUS arrangement** having three advanced nations with arguably the most sophisticated military power in the world coming together to support a free and open Indo-Pacific in the light of the increasingly assertive attitude of China in the region. This could provide **some degree of deterrence to China**.
- Also, India's concerns regarding 'encirclement' by China **may be partially mitigated by AUKUS**.
- China has made **massive inroads in India's neighbourhood** in terms of infrastructure development projects and presence.
- There is apprehension; the deal may eventually lead to crowding of nuclear attack submarines (SSNs/submersible ship nuclear) in the **Eastern Indian Ocean, eroding India's regional pre-eminence**.

## #OLAF SCHOLZ TO BE NEXT GERMAN CHANCELLOR

- **Social Democrat Olaf Scholz** will take oath as the new Chancellor of Germany, marking an end to the 16-year rule of Angela Merkel, who had been the **first female chancellor of Germany**.
- India has deep relations with Germany and it is expected to continue as per the newly elected tripartite coalition led by Olaf Scholz.

- German Ambassador to India Walter J Lindner informed that **Olaf Scholz** has notably visited once before in 2012 when he was the Mayor Hamburg. He had visited New Delhi and Mumbai during his trip.



- **Olaf Scholz was confirmed to be** the next German chancellor after the leaders of three parties sealed a coalition deal.
- The pact paves way for a three-way coalition government comprising the **Social Democrats (SPD), Greens and liberal Free Democrats (FDP)**.

### German Coalition Pact

- The **SPD, Greens and FDP coalition pact** brings to an end nearly five weeks of formal negotiations. The 3-way coalition is known as the traffic-light coalition, due to their respective colors of red, green and yellow. The parties worked behind the closed doors to reach to an agreement.
- The coalition government will mark an end to 16 years of conservative-led rule. Angela Merkel's conservative party narrowly lost to the **Social Democrats in the 2021 German National Elections**.
- The Social Democrats claimed a clear mandate to lead the government for the first time since 2005, but they have not won the majority. The center-left party won 26 percent of the vote, ahead of 24.5 percent vote won by Merkel's CDU/CSU conservative bloc, as per the projected results revealed on September 26, 2021.
- **Neither bloc** won the majority and nor did they show any keenness to form a grand coalition like they did in the past four years.
- Angela Merkel remained in a caretaker role till the new government takes office. The change of government in Germany comes at a crucial time when relations between **France and the US, Australia are strained over the new AUKUS pact. Germany is yet to respond to the situation.**

### Olaf Scholz new German Chancellor

- **Olaf Scholz was till recently serving as Germany's Finance Minister** and Merkel's deputy in the grand coalition. Following the German Election Results 2021, he had said that his party would do everything it can to ensure that they form government by Christmas.
- The 63-year-old Scholz will become the fourth post-war SPD chancellor after Willy Brandt, Helmut Schmidt and Gerhard Schroeder.
- **Social Democratic Party's Helmut Waldemar Schmidt** had served as the Chancellor of West Germany from 1974 to 1982 in coalition with the Free Democrats even though his party had won fewer parliamentary

*seats than the conservative bloc.*

## Angela Merkel's retirement creates a huge vacuum?

- **The incumbent German Chancellor Angela Merkel did not run in the 2021 German national elections**, marking the first time in the history of the Federal Republic that an incumbent did not run. She has decided to retire after serving as German Chancellor for 16 years. **Her stepping down has left a huge vacuum in the heart of German politics.**
- **Angela Merkel had taken office in 2005**, becoming the first female chancellor of Germany. Ever since she took office, she has been described as the **de facto leader of the European Union, the most powerful woman and one of the world's most successful political leaders.**
- She has stood large on the European stage since the time when **George W. Bush was US president, Tony Blair was UK Prime Minister and Jacques Chirac was the French President.**
- She has dealt with four US Presidents, five UK Prime Ministers, four French Presidents and seven Italian Prime Ministers during her 16-year rule.

## Background

- The **Social Democratic Party's gain in 2021 German National Elections** marks a major comeback for the party after the historic defeat in the 2017 National Elections. The SDP is one of the two major parties of contemporary Germany along with the Angela Merkel-led Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU).

## #MAGDALENA ANDERSSON AS 1<sup>ST</sup> FEMALE PM OF SWEDEN

- **Magdalena Andersson**, the first female Prime Minister of Sweden returned to power in a week on November 29, 2021, after she submitted her resignation on November 24.
- **She had become the first female PM of Sweden** only for a few hours before resigning due to a budget defeat that made a coalition partner quit.
- **However, Magdalena Andersson** was again elected in a 101-173 vote with 75 abstentions. The 349-seat Riksdag elected Andersson as a Prime Minister of Sweden for the second time. **Andersson is a leader of the Social Democrats and she was confident that she will return to power.**
- **Sweden's Parliament**, in a first, on November 24, 2021, had elected Magdalena Andersson, Social Democratic Party leader and Finance Minister, as the first female Prime Minister of Sweden. The decision came after Andersson clinched a last-minute deal securing the key support.



## Why did the Swedish Prime Minister resign?

- The **Green Party of Sweden** had decided to quit after the Parliament rejected the coalition's budget bill. Andersson had previously received the support of the **Social Democrats' coalition partner the Green Party, as well as the Centre Party.**
- Andersson was facing setbacks even before her election on November 24. **The announcement was made**



by the Centre Party that while it will not oppose Andersson in the vote for PM, it will withdraw its support for the government's budget to be voted later on November 24, because of the concessions made to the Left.

- It meant that **Magdalena Andersson** had to govern with a budget presented by the opposition conservative Moderates, far-right Sweden Democrats, and Christian Democrats.
- **The 54-years-old Magdalena Andersson**, who took over as the leader of the Social Democrats earlier in November 2021, had reached a deal with the **Left Party late on November 23, 2021, to raise the pensions in exchange for its backing in the next day vote.**
- **How Magdalena Andersson became first female PM of Sweden, again?**
- **Even though Andersson's resignation came within 12 hours of assuming the duties of PM, her chances of being reappointed as the Prime Minister of Sweden were still good.**
- **The Green party had assured that it will support her in any new confirmation vote in the Parliament, while the Centre Party has promised to abstain which means the same as backing her candidacy.**
- **The Left Party of Sweden had already said that it will back her. While these parties were unable to agree on a budget, they all were united on the goal of keeping the Sweden Democrats, an anti-immigration, populist party, from having a role in the Government.**
- **The opposition Christian Democrats and Moderates are backed by the Sweden Democrats; however, they cannot demand a majority in the Parliament.**

### Background

- **Magdalena Andersson** was to succeed the outgoing PM Stefan Lofven after a total of 117 members of Parliament voted for Andersson. 57 members abstained from voting while 174 voted against and one was absent.
- **Under Sweden's electoral system, a prime ministerial candidate of the country does not need the support of a majority in the Parliament; the candidate just needs to not have a majority- or 175 votes- against them.**
- The former Prime Minister of Sweden and leader of the **Social Democratic Party Stefan Lofven** had resigned on November 10, 2021, after seven years as the Prime Minister.
- The move was widely expected as it also aimed at giving his successor time to prepare for September 2022 general elections in Sweden.
- **Despite being a country that had long championed gender equality, Sweden has never had a woman as Prime Minister.**

## #INDIA TO CHAIR UNSC COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE

- In January 2022, India will chair the **UNSC counterterrorism committee**, after 10 long years.
- The **Counter terrorism committee** is of a greater significance for India, because, India has been pitching pertinent measures to fight terrorism across the global platform. India last chaired the committee in 2012.



### Background

- India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador TS Tirumurti had announced on January 8, 2021 that, India will chair three important communities at the UNSC in 2021-22.
- The **three committees are-** Taliban Sanctions Committee, Counter-terrorism Committee and Libya Sanctions Committee.

### India's resolution on counter-terrorism

- TS Tirumurti had announced in November 2020 that, India's annual resolution on counter-terrorism issue was co-sponsored by more than 75 countries.
- The resolution was **adopted by consensus in the First Committee of the UNSC**.
- India has encouraged stronger international cooperation for preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the annual resolution called "Measures to Prevent Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction."
- India has been at the forefront of emphasising the threat to international peace and security that terrorist groups pose, because India has been a victim of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism.
- At United Nations, India had called for stronger national measures for addressing this issue before the **UN Security Council's adoption of Resolution 1540**.
- **UNSC Resolution 1540:** UNSC Resolution 1540 requires all states to refrain from supporting non-state stakeholders in developing, manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, transferring, transporting, or using nuclear, biological or chemical weapons.

### Counter-Terrorism Committee

- **Counter-Terrorism Committee** is a subsidiary body of United Nations Security Council. It is a 15-member committee, established in the aftermath of **9/11 attack in United States to monitor the UNSC resolution 1373**.
- The resolution was adopted mandates all States to criminalize assistance for terrorist activities, share information on groups planning terrorist attacks and deny financial support & safe haven to terrorists.

success mantra digital

ACADEMIA - 2018

Success Mantra Digital - Leading Institute in Test Preparation

SUBSCRIBED

HOME VIDEOS PLAYLISTS COMMUNITY CHANNELS ABOUT

Uploads ▾ PLAY ALL SORT BY

**AILET 2021 Paper Analysis**  
Success Mantra Coaching  
187 views • Streamed 6 days ago  
49:46

**NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis (English Section) ...**  
266 views • Streamed 1 week ago  
40:00

**Why You Should Join The Legal Profession |...**  
356 views • Streamed 2 weeks ago  
1:11:35

**NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis | Success Mantra...**  
163 views • Streamed 2 weeks ago  
16:10

**NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis**  
16:10

**IMPORTANCE OF VOCABULARY**  
LIVE

**POLITY मंथन 1500+**  
LIVE

**LEGAL मंथन 1000+ Questions**  
LIVE

Subscribe Our YouTube Channel  
**SUCCESS MANTRA DIGITAL**  
 And Ace Your Entrance!!

