



# pravahini

## **Monthly Compendium (National & International Affairs)**

of Current Affairs by **SUCCESS MANTRA** (GTB Nagar)

# **NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

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# NATIONAL AFFAIRS

## #WHAT IS THE AGNIPATH SCHEME FOR RECRUITING SOLDIERS?

Recently, the government has unveiled **Agnipath scheme** for recruiting soldiers across the **three services (Army, Navy and Airforce)**.

### What is the Agnipath Scheme?

- It allows **patriotic and motivated youth** to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of four years.
- Under this scheme, the **youth joining the army will be called Agniveer**. Youth will be able to be recruited into the army for a short duration.
- Under the new scheme, around 45,000 to 50,000 soldiers will be recruited annually, and most will leave the service in just four years.
- However, after **four years, only 25% of the batch will be recruited back** into their respective services, for a period of 15 years.



### Eligibility Criteria:

- It is **only for personnel below officer ranks** (those who do not join the forces as commissioned officers).
- Commissioned officers **are the army's highest ranked officers**.
- Commissioned officers **hold an exclusive rank** in the Indian armed forces.
- They often hold a **commission under the president's sovereign power** and are officially instructed to protect the country.
- Aspirants between the ages of **17.5 years and 21 years will be eligible to apply**.
- **Objectives:** It aims at **providing an opportunity to the patriotic and motivated youth** with the 'Josh' and 'Jazba' to join the Armed Forces.

## Who are Agniveers?

- **Agniveer would be a future-ready soldier, India's young protector**, explained Lt Gen Anil Puri. The Lt Gen highlighted that after four years of service with the Army, the agniveer's resume and biodata will be very unique and he will stand out in crowd with his attitude, skills and time.
- **The Agnipath scheme army age limit will be between 18-25 years.**
- The 'Agnipath' scheme opens the way for recruitment of about 45,000 soldiers into Army, Navy and Air Force in the first year but on a short-term contract of four years. After the completion of the contract, 25% of them will be retained and the rest will leave the forces.
- **Our four years of service will mean other jobs will be out of reach after that**, and we will be left behind our peers.
- Those hired under the 'Agnipath' scheme will be **given a one-time lumpsum** of a little more than Rs 11 lakh **when they end their four-year tenure.**

## #WHAT IS BHARAT GAURAV SCHEME?

First Train under the "Bharat Gaurav Scheme" started from Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) to Shirdi (Maharashtra) by Indian Railways' Southern Railway zone.

- The train will cover **several historical destinations on the route while giving the passengers an insight into the cultural heritage** of the country.



### What is Bharat Gaurav Scheme?

- This scheme was launched by Indian Government to tap the **huge potential of Tourism in India.**
- Under it, trains have a third segment for tourism. Before this scheme was launched, Railways had goods segments and passenger segments.
- These **trains are not regular trains, and will run according to timetable.**
- It will run on the lines of Ramayana Express, which is being run by the IRCTC. **Scheme was announced under theme-based tourist circuit trains.**

### What are the other Related Scheme?

- **Swadesh Darshan Scheme:** Swadesh Darshan, a **Central Sector Scheme**, was launched in 2014 -15 for integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits in the country.
- **PRASHAD Scheme:** The 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive' (PRASAD) was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15 with the **objective of holistic development of identified pilgrimage destinations.**
- **Buddhist Conclave:** Buddhist Conclave is **organised every alternate year with the objective of promoting India as a Buddhist Destination** and major markets around the globe.
- **Dekho Apna Desh' Initiative:** It is an **initiative to encourage the citizens to travel widely within the country** and explore the wonders of India thus enabling the development of Domestic Tourism tourist facilities and infrastructure in tourism spots in the country.

### What is the State of Tourism in India?

- Tourism in India is important **for the country's economy and is growing rapidly.**



- According to the World Travel and Tourism Council, the travel & tourism industry's contribution to the **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** was USD 121.9 billion in 2020 and this is expected to reach **USD 512 billion by 2028**.
- In India, the industry's direct contribution to the GDP is expected to record an annual growth rate of 10.35% between 2019 and 2028.
- Also, the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report 2019 ranked India 34<sup>th</sup> out of 140 countries overall, showing India's efforts to improve in the field.

## #PURI HERITAGE CORRIDOR CASE

- Residents of Puri had moved the **High Court** alleging that, structural safety of **800-year-old Jagannath Temple** could be in danger, if land surrounding the temple were dug up.
- They also allege that; state government has insulted the devotees by demolishing mutts in order to clear roads to Shri Jagannath temple.
- These roads are closely linked with different rituals of **12th century shrine because of ongoing Srimandir Parikrama Project**.
- Case has also been taken up in the Apex court at times, when **Orissa High Court** is hearing a plea against construction.



## About Srimandir Parikrama Project

- The foundation stone for the **Rs 800 crore Srimandir Parikrama Plan (also called Jagannath Temple corridor project)** was laid by CM of Odisha in November 2021.
- Under this project, area within 75-metre perimeter of **Jagannath Temple** was to be transformed into a **heritage corridor, in order to attract devotees from world**.
- It has been modelled on the line of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor project of Varanasi. It will have amenities for pilgrims like cloak rooms, reception centre, restrooms, etc.
- **Project was scheduled to be completed by May 2023.**
- Its construction has taken up by **Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation (OBCC)** of state government, while Tata Projects is running it on ground.
- Its construction also took into consideration a Supreme Court judgement in 2019, that suggested to clear all structure around 75-metre radius for the safety, scrutiny and improvement of the temple.

## Temple governance

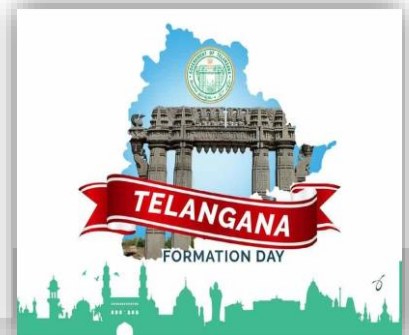
- The **Jagannath Temple** is a centrally protected monument and ASI is its custodian.
- Thus, 100 metre around the perimeter of temple is considered as inviolate, where no construction can be taken in accordance with the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and validation) Act (AMASR Act), unless National Monuments Authority (NMA) gives nod to it.
- NMA had issued a no objection certificate (NOC) in 2021 for the construction of a shelter pavilion, toilets etc. within prohibited 75-metre zone, **based on the fact that public amenities do not come under definition of construction.**

## What is the controversy?

- The Puri Corridor Project came into controversy when government agencies dug huge pits within 100 m from the boundary of temple, which is categorized as protected zone, without getting permission from Archeological Survey of India (ASI).
- **About National Monuments Authority (NMA)**
- NMA functions under the Union Ministry of Culture. It was set up in 2011 to protect and preserve monuments and sites through management of **prohibited and regulated area across centrally protected monuments**.

## #TELANGANA FORMATION DAY OBSERVED ON 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE

- Telangana's Governor greeted the people of the state on **Telangana formation day** (2nd June).
- **What are the Key Points about Telangana?**
- **About:**
- On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2014 the northwestern part of Andhra Pradesh was separated and 29<sup>th</sup> state Telangana was created.
- The **Andhra State Act (1953)** formed the first linguistic state of India, known as the state of Andhra, by taking out the Telugu speaking areas from the State of Madras (now Tamil Nadu).
- The **States Reorganisation Act (1956)** merged the Telugu-speaking areas of Hyderabad state with the Andhra state to create the enlarged Andhra Pradesh state.
- The **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act (2014)** bifurcated Andhra Pradesh into two separate states, namely, the **Andhra Pradesh (residuary)** and the **Telangana**.
- **Capital:** Hyderabad
- **Borders:** Telangana is surrounded by Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh in the North, Karnataka in the West and Andhra Pradesh in the South and East directions.



## Four Icons of Telangana:

- **State Bird** - Palapitta (Indian Roller or Blue Jay).
- **State Animal** - Jinka (Deer).
- **State Tree** - Jammi Chettu (Prosopis Cineraria).
- **State Flower** - Tangedu (Tanner's Cassia).

## Global Recognition:

- **Ramappa Temple**, at Mulugu district presents the distinct style of Kakatiyas. The foundation of this temple is "**sandbox technique**". It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- Sadarmatt anicut across river Godavari in Nirmal district and Pedda Cheruvu in Kamareddy district are in the **ICID Register of Heritage Irrigation Structures**.

## National Parks:

- Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park
- Mahavir Harina Vanasthali National Park

- Mrugavani National Park

### Wild Life Sanctuaries:

- Kinnersani Wildlife Sanctuary
- Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary
- **Kawal Tiger Reserve**
- Lanja Madugu Siwaram Wildlife Sanctuary
- Manjeera Crocodile Wildlife Sanctuary
- **Nagarjuna Sagar-Srisailem Wildlife Sanctuary**
- **Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary**
- **Pocharam Wildlife Sanctuary**
- **Pranahita Wildlife Sanctuary**

### #50% RURAL HOUSEHOLDS COVERED UNDER JJM

Recently, the Centre announced that over **50% of rural households have access to tap water supply.**

### What is Jal Jeevan Mission?

- **Launched in 2019**, it envisages **supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.**
- JJM looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.
- **It comes under Jal Shakti Ministry.**
- The mission ensures **functionality of existing water supply systems and water connections**, water quality monitoring and testing as well as sustainable agriculture.
- JJM focuses on **integrated demand and supply-side management** of water at the local level.



### What is Jal Jeevan Mission(Urban)?

- In the **Budget 2021-22**, **Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban)** has been announced under the **Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry to provide universal coverage of water supply to all households** through functional taps in all statutory towns in accordance with **Sustainable Development Goal- 6.**
- It complements the **Jal Jeevan Mission (Rural)** which envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through **Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.**

### Objectives of Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban):

- Securing tap and sewer connections
- Rejuvenation of water bodies
- creating circular water economy

## Steps Taken for Water Conservation

- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act:** Aims to improve groundwater harvesting, build water conservation and storage mechanisms and has enabled the government to introduce water conservation as a project under the Act.
- For example, the **Jal Gram Scheme** under it aimed at developing two model villages in water-starved areas for water conservation and preservation.
- **National Water Mission:** Aims to conserve water minimise wastage and ensure more equitable distribution both across and within states through integrated water resources development and management.
- **NITI Aayog's Composite Water Management Index:** Aims to achieve effective utilization of water.
- **Jal Shakti Ministry:** Jal Shakti Ministry was formed to tackle water issues holistically.
- Jal Jeevan mission aims to provide piped water to all rural households by 2024.
- **Atal Bhujal Yojana:** Central sector scheme for sustainable management of groundwater with community participation through the formation of **Water User Associations**, water budgeting, preparation and implementation of Gram-panchayat-wise water security plans, etc.
- **Jal Shakti Abhiyan:** Launched in July 2019 as a campaign for water conservation and water security in the country.
- **National Water Awards:** Organised by the **Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation**, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- Focus on the good work and efforts made by individuals and organisations across the country, and the government's vision for the path to **Jal Samridh Bharat**.

## RELATED: WORLD WATER DAY

- **World Water Day** is celebrated on **22<sup>nd</sup> March Every Year** to highlight the importance of water.
- On the Occasion of the **World Water Day UN (United Nations)** University's Canadian-based Institute for Water Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) has published an assessment report, showing the **levels of water security in Africa overall are unacceptably low**.
- The World Water Day 2022 theme sets the focus for the **annual World Water Development Report**.
- What is World Water Day?
- **Aim:** The Day aims to **support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6:** water and sanitation for all by 2030.
- **Theme:** Groundwater: making the invisible visible.
- The theme was decided by **UN-water at its 30th meeting in Rome**. It was proposed by the **International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC)**.



# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## #75 YEARS OF INDIA-RUSSIA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIP

Recently India and Russia celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their diplomatic relations. This has come amid Russia-Ukraine war.

### What are the Different Aspects of Indo-Russia Relations?

#### Historical Background:

- The India and Russia ties have been a longstanding relation. Since the signing of the “**Declaration on the India-Russia Strategic Partnership**” in October 2000, India-Russia ties have acquired a qualitatively new character with enhanced levels of cooperation in almost all areas of the bilateral relationship including political, security, defence, trade and economy, science and technology, and culture.
- During the **Cold War**, India and the **Soviet Union** had a strong strategic, military, economic and diplomatic relationship. After the Dissolution of the Soviet Union, Russia inherited its close relationship with India which resulted in both nations sharing a Special Strategic Relation.



#### Political Relations:

- The **Annual Summit meeting between the Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation** is the highest institutionalised dialogue mechanism in the strategic partnership between India and Russia.
- In 2019, President Putin signed the Executive Order on awarding PM Narendra Modi **Russia's highest state decoration – The order of St Andrew the Apostle**.
- The order was presented to PM for his distinguished contribution to the development of a privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India and friendly ties between the Russian and Indian peoples

#### Defence and Security Relations

- India-Russia military-technical cooperation has evolved from a buyer-seller framework to one involving joint research, development and production of advanced defence technologies and systems
- Both countries regularly conduct the Tri-Services exercise ‘**INDRA**’.

#### About the S-400 Triumf Missile System:

- The S-400 Triumf is a mobile, surface-to-air missile system (SAM) designed by Russia. It is the most dangerous operationally deployed modern long-range SAM (MLR SAM) in the world, considered much ahead of the **US-developed Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system (THAAD)**.
- The system **can engage all types of aerial targets** including aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and ballistic and cruise missiles within the range of 400km, at an altitude of up to 30km.
- The system **can track 100 airborne targets and engage six of them simultaneously**.

### About the US' CAATSA:

- **US Law:** It is a US federal law enacted in 2017. The Act empowers the US President to impose at least five of the 12 listed sanctions on persons engaged in a "significant transaction" with Russian defence and intelligence sectors.
- Its "ultimate goal", "is to prevent revenue from flowing to the Russian Government.
- Besides Russia, CAATSA is aimed at enforcing sanctions against Iran and North Korea.
- **Types of Sanctions:** The CAATSA contains 12 types of sanctions. There are only two sanctions that may impact either India-Russia relations or India-US relations.
- **Prohibition of banking transactions:** The first of these, which is likely to have an impact on India-Russia relations, is the "Prohibition of Banking transactions".
- This would mean difficulties for India in making payments in US Dollars to Russia for the purchase of the S-400 systems.
- **Export Sanction:** The second sanction will have greater consequences for India-US relations.
- This is the "export sanction" which has the potential to completely derail the India-US Strategic and Defence partnership, as it will deny the license for, and export of, any items controlled by the US.

### About Kamov-226T helicopter:

- **Design:** The Ka-226T is a design of Russia's famed Kamov design bureau.

### INS Vikramaditya

- It is the Indian Navy's largest aircraft carrier and warship converted from the Russian Navy's decommissioned Admiral Gorshkov/Baku.
- INS Vikramaditya is a modified Kiev-class aircraft carrier that was commissioned into service in November 2013.

### What are Other Important Areas of Relations between India and Russia?

- **Nuclear Relations:**
- Russia is an important partner for India in the area of peaceful use of nuclear energy. It recognizes India as a country with advanced nuclear technology with an impeccable non-proliferation record.
- **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP)** is being built in India .
- Both India and Russia are implementing **Rooppur Nuclear Power Project in Bangladesh**
- **Space Exploration:**
- Both sides cooperate in the peaceful uses of outer space, including satellite launches, **GLONASS navigation system**, remote sensing and other societal applications of outer space. An MoU ISRO and ROSCOSMOS on Joint Activities in the field of **Human Spaceflight Programme** was signed during the 19<sup>th</sup> Bilateral Summit.

### First Indo-Russia 2+2 Dialogue:

- It is the first 2+2 meeting between the foreign and defense ministers of the two countries.
- India has held a 2+2 format of meetings with member nations of the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)** — the US, Japan and Australia.
- **Agreement for Kalashnikov Rifles:** The two sides signed two contracts for the manufacture of nearly 600,000 AK-203 rifles under a joint venture in **Amethi, Uttar Pradesh**.

- **Agreement for Military Cooperation:** The two countries also signed an agreement for military technology cooperation for the next decade, from **2021 to 2031**.
- India underlined its goal of becoming Russia's defense development and production partner from just a buyer.
- The two sides are now looking at expanding the format of exercises to make them more complex as well as Ideas for **expanding India-Russia cooperation In Central Asia**.
- **Go Ahead With S-400 Air Defense System Deal:** India asserted that it follows an "independent foreign policy", hinting at the US' **Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)**.
- This is referred to in the context of supply of **S-400 air defence missile** systems which began this month and will continue to happen.

## #I2U2 GROUPINGS – WEST ASIAN QUAD DIALOGUE

- The new I2U2 grouping of **India, Israel, UAE, and the US** will hold its first virtual summit in July 2022. **I2U2 group** has been formed as part of the US Government's efforts to re-energize and revitalize American alliances all over the world.
- The first-ever virtual summit of the I2U2 grouping will be held in July 2022 and it will be attended by PM Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, PM of Israel Neftali Bennett, and the UAE President Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- The **leaders of the four countries** will discuss the food security crisis and the other areas of cooperation.



- The **forum will be launched during Joe Biden's visit to Israel** from July 13 to July 16, 2022.
- Joe Biden is scheduled to visit **West Bank, Saudi Arabia,**
- **This will be his first visit in the region** and most volatile across world.
- It is **expected to reinforce the US's "iron-clad commitment" to Israel's security and prosperity** and continue the process of its integration into the region under the Abraham Accords brokered by Trump between Israel on the one hand and the UAE and Bahrain on the other in 2020; an agreement with Morocco followed.
- Biden will also meet with **Palestinian leaders in West Bank, recommitting US** to a two-state solution that had been somewhat diluted or abandoned under Trump.

## About West Asia Quad Dialogue

- The **West Asia Quad Dialogue** will also be called as **I2U2**. I2 for India and Israel while U2 for US and the UAE. It will focus on West Asia.
- It was inaugurated in October 2021 by **Secretary of US Antony Blinken**.
- It is an entirely new grouping of partners that will focus on expanding economic and political cooperation in Asia and Middle East through **energy cooperation, trade, coordination on vital shared interests and combating climate change**.

## When will this dialogue launched?

- This initiative will be launched in a virtual call that Joe Biden will hold with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, UAE's President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Israel's Prime Minister Naftali Bennet.
- They will discuss security as well as areas of cooperation across hemispheres, **where Israel and UAE are important innovation hubs**.

## Background

- Joe Biden has launched several multilateral dialogues, after assuming office in January 2021 such as, **AUKUS**- a three-nation group of US, UK and Australia. A Quadrilateral dialogue with **Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan**.
- He has also strengthened and deepened existing platforms like **Quad with India, Japan and Australia as well as North Atlantic Treaty Organization**.

## #TURKEY TO BE NOW CALLED AS 'TURKIYE'

- Turkey will now be officially known as **Türkiye** at the United Nations after it agreed to officially recognise the name change on **June 1, 2022** following a request from the Turkish government.
- Turkey had begun its campaign to rebrand itself in December 2021.



## Why has Turkey changed its name?

- One of the key reasons for the image rebrand is the association of Turkey with the Turkey bird traditionally associated with Christmas, New Year or Thanksgiving.
- The Cambridge English Dictionary's definition of Turkey is also reportedly one of the reasons as one of the meanings of the word Turkey has been given as "something that fails badly" or "a stupid or silly person".

## When Türkiye was first proposed?

- Turkey had began the move to rebrand itself internationally as **Türkiye** in December 2021 following the release of an official memorandum by **Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan**, in which he had asked the public to use **Türkiye** to describe the country in every language.

## List of countries that have changed their names –

- **The Netherlands**- The dutch country officially changed its name from Holland to The Netherlands in January 2020 as a marketing move. The names Holland and Netherlands were interchangeable before



that.

- **Czech Republic-** Czech Republic officially **changed its name to Czechia in 2016** in a marketing move, as it is a easier name to attach to products.
- **North Macedonia** - The **Republic of Macedonia** officially became the Republic of North Macedonia in 2019 in a political move, as Macedonia was also an ancient Greek kingdom and the naming dispute had led to instability in the region.
- **Eswatini-** King Mswati III renamed Swaziland to Eswatini in April 2018 to break free from the country's colonial past. Eswatini is the **country's pre-colonial name and it means "land of the Swazis" in their language.**
- **Cabo Verde-** Cape Verde officially requested to **change its name to Cabo Verde in 2013.**
- **Sri Lanka-** Sri Lanka officially changed its name from Ceylon in 1972 when it became independent from the British rule. The country officially removed its old colonial name from government use in 2011.
- **Iran-**The Iranian government requested countries to call Persia as Iran in 1935.
- **Thailand-** **Thailand was known as Siam earlier.** The king who ruled the country in 1939 changed its name after it became a constitutional monarchy.
- **Cambodia-** Cambodia has changed its name several times, as it was earlier known as the Kingdom of Cambodia and then as Khmer Republic till 1975 and then it was referred to as Democratic Kampuchea from 1975 to 1979. It then became state of Cambodia from 1989-1993 and finally was renamed as Kingdom of Cambodia in 1993.
- **Myanmar-** The ruling military junta changed the name of Burma into Myanmar in 1989.
- **Ireland-** The Irish Free State changed its name to Ireland in 1937 to remove all ties with the United Kingdom.
- **Zimbabwe-** Zimbabwe's colonial name was Rhodesia. The country achieved international recognition as Republic of Zimbabwe in April 1980 after its independence and was renamed as Zimbabwe.

## #TRINCOMALEE PORT OF SRI-LANKA

Sri Lanka plans to develop Trincomalee port into an industrial hub that would spark global interest.

- The proposal is a long-standing plan to monetise land that belongs to the **Sri Lanka Port Authority**, by getting foreign and local investment for **a special economic zone, an industrial park, or an energy hub.**

### About Trincomalee Port:

- Trincomalee harbour is **on the northeastern coast of Sri Lanka.** It is situated on a peninsula in Trincomalee Bay—formerly called Koddiiyar Bay.
- Trincomalee is the **nearest port to Chennai, India.**



### Significance of the Port:

- The location of this port in Indian ocean has strategic significance, it has been of interest to several countries, **including India, Japan and the US.**

- Japan commissioned the **2020 ADB (Asian Development Bank) study** on the development of Trincomalee port.
- There is also a **jetty for bulk cargo** such as coal, gypsum and cement.

### What does the deal mean for India?

- It offers one of Asia's finest natural harbours which India will benefit from.
- This port will serve as a way to balance China's influence in the Indian Ocean Region. China already has access to **Hambantota Port**, so Trincomalee port is important for India.
- If Indian companies engage in this development, it will enhance Indian maritime trade routes in the region.
- Earlier this year, **Lanka Indian Oil Company and Ceylon Petroleum Corporation** signed an agreement to develop a massive oil storage tank farm built during British rule at Trincomalee. This agreement will benefit from this deal.

## #ARTICLE ON HAMBANTOTA PORT

The **Hambantota Port**, also known as the **Magampura Mahinda Rajapaksa Port**, is a maritime inland port located in Hambantota, Sri Lanka. It is constructed by the Sri Lankan Port Authority and mostly funded by EXIM bank of China. The construction of the port has serious strategic implications for India, the details of which will be further explained in this article. The construction of the Hambantota Port began on 15 January 2008. Chinese companies, Sinohydro Corporation and China Harbour Engineering Company were involved in the first phase of the construction which cost an estimated \$360 million, excluding \$76.5 million for the bunker terminal. The Chinese government provided 85% of the funding while the Sri Lanka Ports Authority provided the remaining funding. Initially set to open in the first half of 2011, five months ahead of schedule, the first phase of the project was completed by November 2010. The port was inaugurated on 18 November 2010 by Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksha. The first vessel to drop anchor at the port was the navy ship 'Jetliner' which sailed from the Naval Base in Galle. The launch of the second phase of the development of the port commenced on the same day. There is also a move to create this port as a free port due to its commercial inactivity. The first phase of the Port of Hambantota will consist of two 600m general purpose berths, a 310m bunkering berth and a 120m small craft berth. It will also contain a bunkering facility and tank farm which will include 8 tanks for marine fuel, 3 tanks containing aviation fuel and 3 for Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG). Despite high expectations from the opening of the Hambantota Port, it started incurring losses as the years went by. At one point in 2016, the port made US\$11.81 million and incurred expenses of US\$10 million as direct and administrative costs to report an operating profit of just US\$1.81 million. As the losses continued to mount it was decided to lease the port to China for a period of 99-years. The agreement was signed in July 2017. The large Chinese loans, the inability of the Sri Lankan government to service the loans, and subsequent 99-year Chinese lease on the port have led to accusations that China was practising Debt trap diplomacy. The port in itself is considered a crucial element in China's OBOR).

## #INDIA & BANGLADESH JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE (EX SAMPRITI)

A joint military training exercise **Ex SAMPRITI-X between India and Bangladesh** is being conducted at Jashore Military Station in Bangladesh from 5<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

### What are the Key Highlights about the Ex SAMPRITI-X?

- **SAMPRITI is an important bilateral defence cooperation** endeavour conducted alternately by both countries which **aims to strengthen and widen the aspects of interoperability** and cooperation between both the armies.
- **Aim:** To **strengthen interoperability between the two armies** and to understand each other's tactical drills and operational techniques.

- **Representation by India:** The Indian contingent of company strength is being represented by a Battalion of the DOGRA Regiment.

### What are the Other Military Exercises by India?

Exercise Name	Participant Nations
Sampriti	India & Bangladesh
Mitra Shakti	India & Sri Lanka
Maitree Exercise	India & Thailand
Vajra Prahar	India & US
Yudh Abhyas	India & US
Nomadic Elephant	India & Mongolia
Garuda Shakti	India & Indonesia
Shakti Exercise	India & France
Dharma Guardian	India & Japan
Surya Kiran	India & Nepal
Hand in Hand Exercise	India & China
SIMBEX	India & Singapore
Shakti Exercise	India & France
CORPAT	India & Thailand

### UNGA ADOPTED INDIA LED RESOLUTION ON MULTILINGUALISM

- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** adopted an India-led resolution on multilingualism mentioning Hindi language for the first time.
- **This resolution encourages United Nations** to continue disseminating important communications and messages in official and non-official languages, including Hindi.
- UN resolution also **mentions Urdu and Bangla for the very first**



### time. UN's adoption of Multilingualism and its significance for India

- Multilingualism is considered as a core value of United Nations. Adoption of multilingualism is significant for India, because this **resolution was adopted by UN with the objective of enhancing public outreach of United Nations in Hindi language.**
- It also seeks to spread greater awareness regarding the global issues among Hindi-speaking populations worldwide.

### India's contributions

- **India has been coordinating with UN Department of Global Communications (DGC)** since 2018 by consolidating news and multimedia content in Hindi languages and providing extra-budgetary contribution to the mainstream.
- **India also launched 'Hindi@UN' project in 2018** with the aim of enhancing public outreach of United Nations in Hindi Language, and raise awareness on global issues among millions of Hindi-speaking populations worldwide.

### Significance of Multilingualism for United Nations

- **Multilingualism is significant for United Nations**, because it is factor in harmonious communication among people. It is an enabler of multilateral diplomacy. Multilingualism at this forum ensures effective participation of all in the work of organisation, greater efficiencies and transparency.

### Latest official languages of UN

- The latest official languages of UN include- **Arabic, English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and French.**
- English and French are the **working languages of United Nations Secretariat.**

### United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

- **UNGA is one among six principal organs of the United Nations (UN).**
- It is the main policymaking and representative organ of the UN. It is responsible for UN budget. **It is the only UN organ, where all the member states have equal representation.**



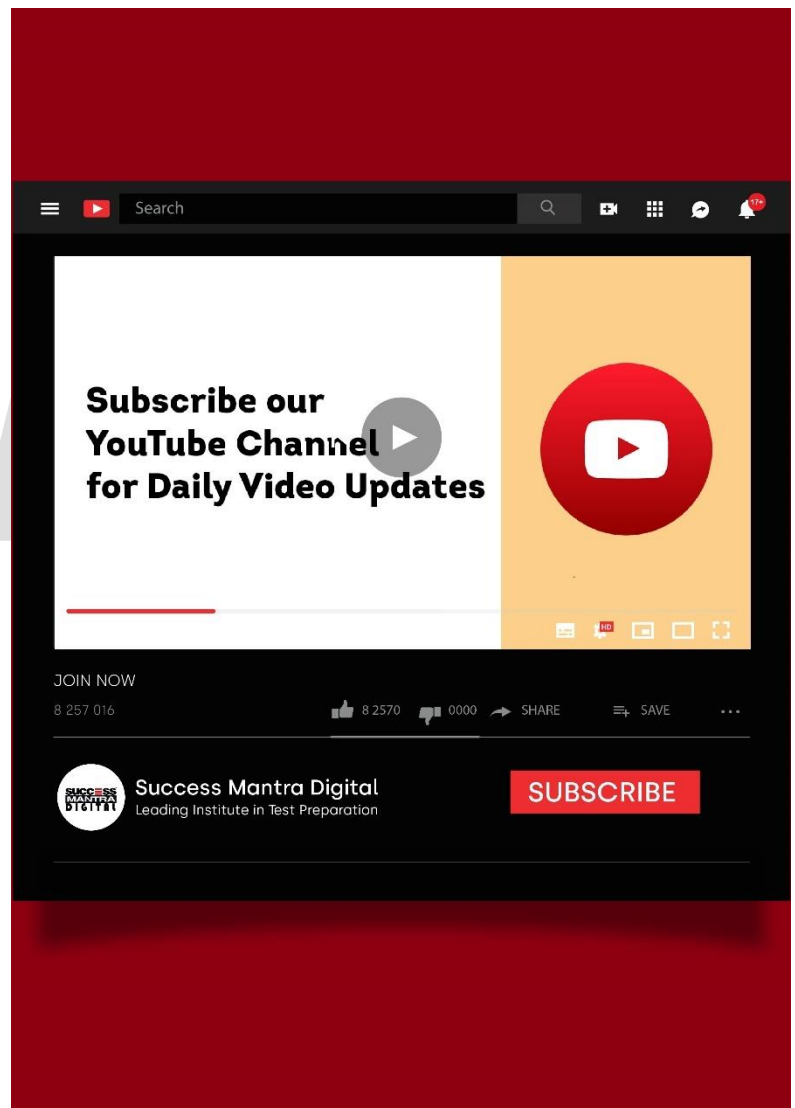
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