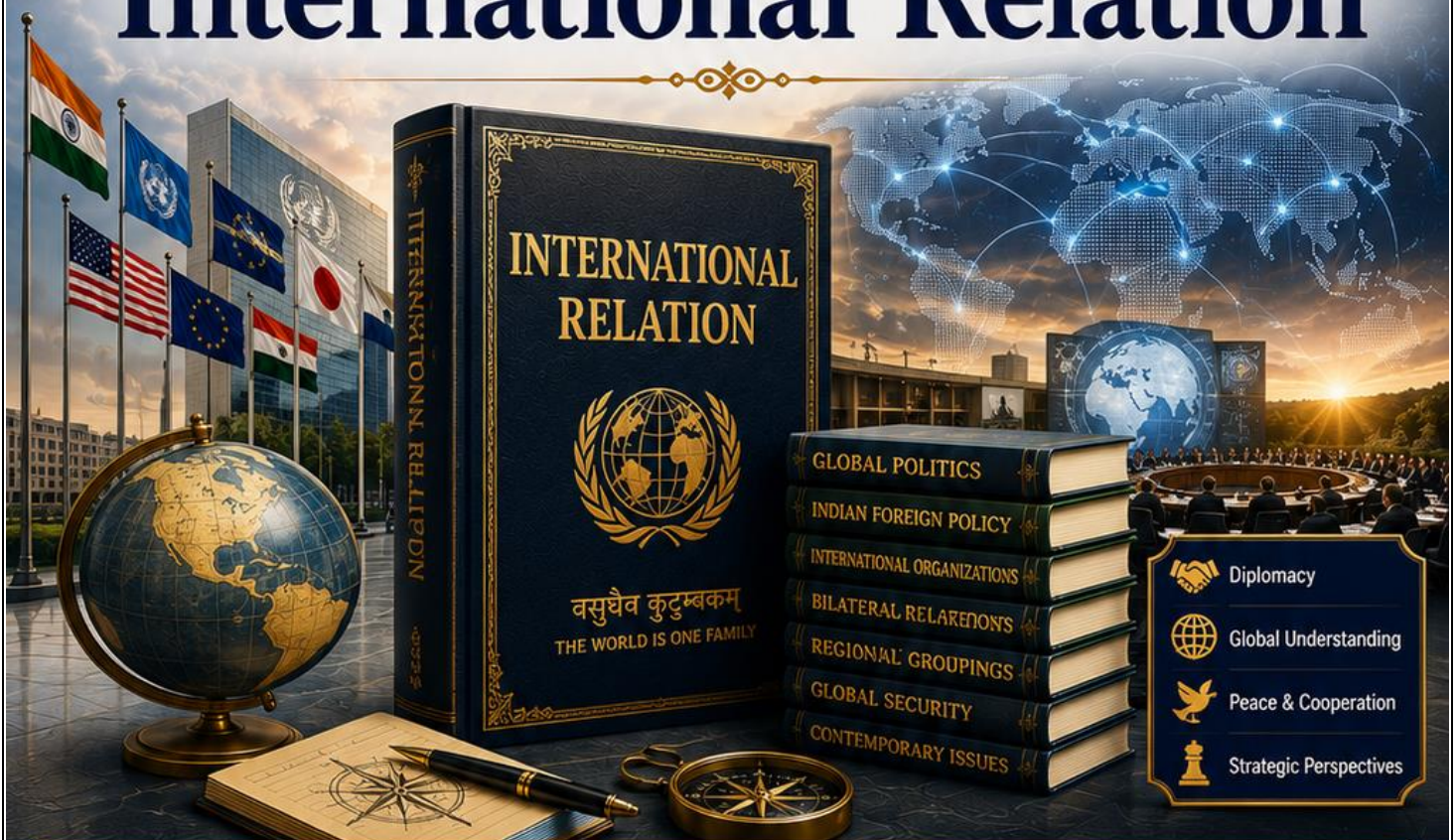




P.L. RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

Civil Services Study Material

International Relation



- Diplomacy
- Global Understanding
- Peace & Cooperation
- Strategic Perspectives



COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE

In-depth Study of All Important Topics



CURRENT TRENDS

Latest Global Updates & Developments



EXAM FOCUSED

UPSC Pattern Based Approach



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Chapter-wise PYQs & Model MCQs



STRATEGIC PREPARATION

Concept Clarity + Answer Writing

UPSC Prelims Current Affairs

(July 2026)

MONTHLY COMPILATION



📍 1447 / C, 3rd Floor, 15th Main Road,
H Block, Anna Nagar West,
Chennai - 600040.

☎ +91 9445132221, +91 9445032221
☎ 044 4232 3192

Contents

1. Lokayan 2026: INS Sudarshini.....	2
2. Bintang Adipurna:	4
3. Guwahati declaration:.....	5
4. Hummus trail	7
5. Australia–India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains (PACTS)	9
6. India–New Zealand Strategic Partnership.....	11
7. Codex Alimentarius Commission	13
8. Red Sea: A Strategic Hinge Between West Asia and the Horn of Africa	15
9. WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies	18
10. Truncated Common Wealth Games 2026	20
11. India–Panama Maritime Partnership.....	21

1. Lokayan 2026: INS Sudarshini

Prelims:

International Relations, Defense & Security

Mains:

GS Paper II–International Relations, GS Paper III–Security

Current relevance:

Indian Naval Sail Training Ship (INS) Sudarshini arrived in New York under the **Lokayan 2026 expedition** to participate in the **Sail4th 250 celebrations** and the United States International Naval Review 250.

Highlights:

About Lokayan 2026

- i. Lokayan 2026 is a **10-month transoceanic expedition** undertaken by **INS Sudarshini**.

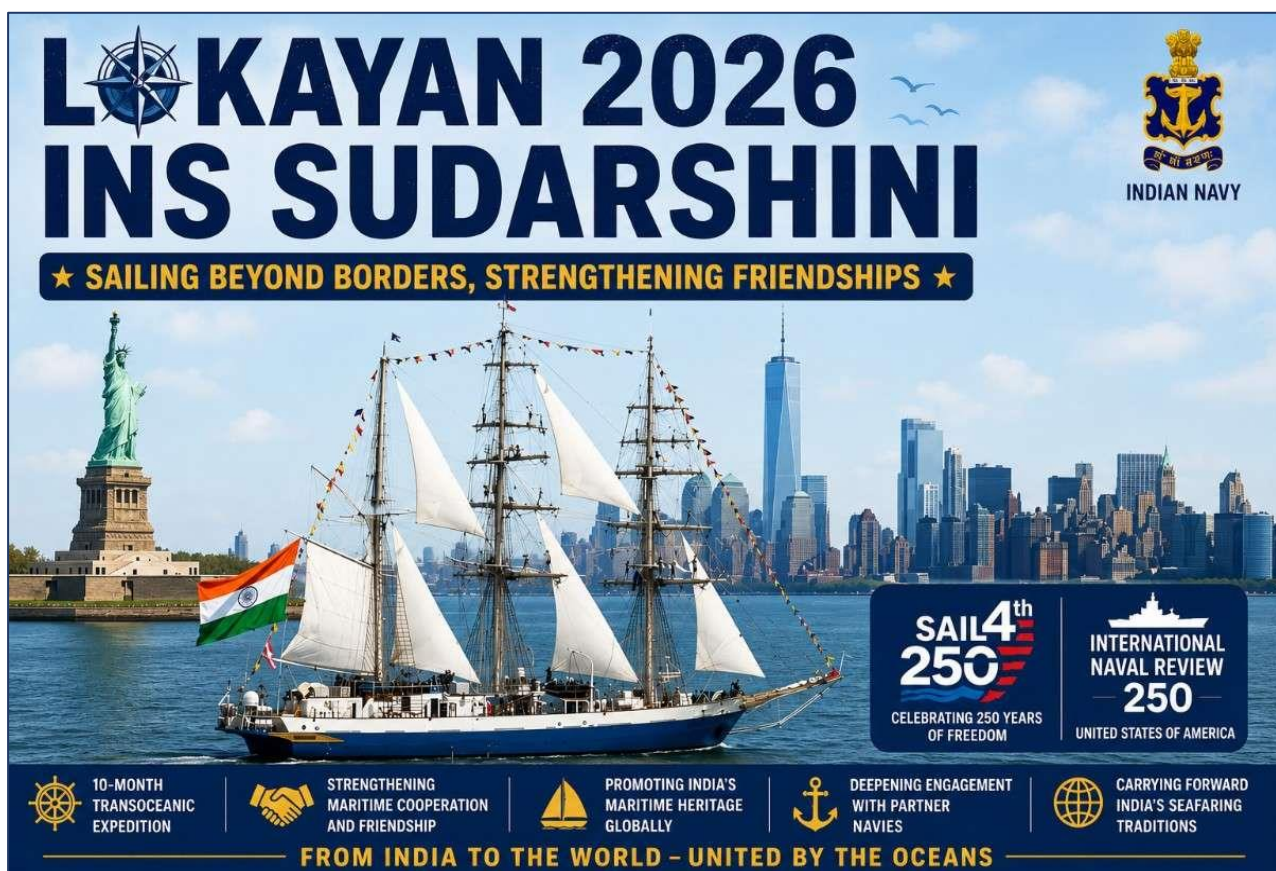
- ii. The expedition aims to **strengthen maritime cooperation**, promote international goodwill, and deepen engagement with partner navies.

INS Sudarshini

- i. It is the **Indian Navy's sail training ship**, designed as a three-masted barque.
- ii. It serves as a symbol of **India's rich maritime heritage** and centuries-old seafaring traditions.
- iii. The vessel is primarily used for sail training, maritime diplomacy, and international outreach.

Participation in Sail4th 250

- i. INS Sudarshini participated in the **Parade of Sail** along the **Hudson River in New York**.
- ii. It proudly **flew the Indian Tricolour**, showcasing India's maritime legacy during the international celebrations.



Source: PIB- <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2281357®=48&lang=2>

2. Bintang Adipurna:

Prelims:

International Relations

Mains:

GS Paper II-International Relations

Current relevance:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred '**Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indonesia**', the highest civilian honour of Indonesia.



Highlights:

1. Bintang Adipurna, instituted in 1959, is the **highest civilian honour awarded by the Republic of Indonesia**.
2. The award is conferred on individuals who have rendered exceptional service to the unity, continuity, and prosperity of Indonesia.
3. **Award to Prime Minister Modi:**

The award recognises his efforts in strengthening **India–Indonesia bilateral relations** and advancing the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.

4. India–Indonesia Relations

- i. India and Indonesia share a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.
- ii. Both countries cooperate in **maritime security, defence, trade, energy, digital economy, and cultural exchanges**.
- iii. Both are important partners in promoting a **free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific**.

Source: THE HINDU – <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-modi-conferred-with-indonesias-highest-honour-bintang-adipurna-in-jakarta/article71192597.ece>

3. Guwahati declaration:

Prelims:

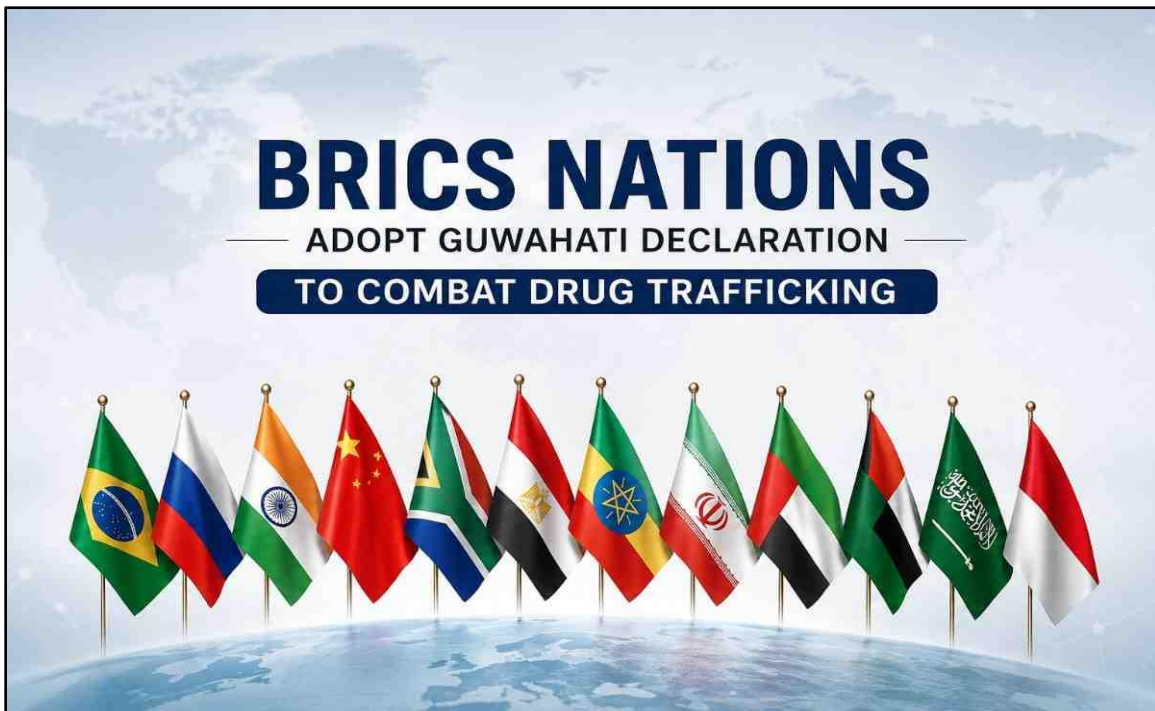
International Relations, Internal Security

Mains:

GS Paper II–International Relations, GS Paper III–Internal Security

Current relevance:

The **BRICS nations** adopted the **Guwahati Declaration** during the **BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group Meeting** in Guwahati.



Highlights:

1. The **Guwahati Declaration** is a joint commitment by BRICS nations to strengthen cooperation in preventing and combating **illicit drug trafficking** and **transnational organised crime**.
2. **Objectives:**
 - i. Enhance **intelligence sharing** among member countries.
 - ii. Strengthen coordinated **law enforcement** actions.
 - iii. Improve **capacity building** and exchange of best practices.
 - iv. Promote **international cooperation** to curb drug trafficking networks.
3. **Significance for India:**
 - i. Reinforces India's efforts to **tackle cross-border drug trafficking**.
 - ii. Enhances **cooperation with BRICS countries** in intelligence sharing and enforcement.
 - iii. Supports **regional security** and the fight against organised **crime and narco-terrorism**.
4. **About BRICS:**

- i. **BRICS** is an intergovernmental grouping of major emerging economies comprising **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Indonesia.**
- ii. It promotes cooperation in **economic development, trade, security, science and technology, public health, and global governance.**

Source: THE HINDU – <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/brics-nations-adopt-guwahati-declaration-to-combat-drug-trafficking/article71193362.ece>

4. Hummus trail

Prelims:

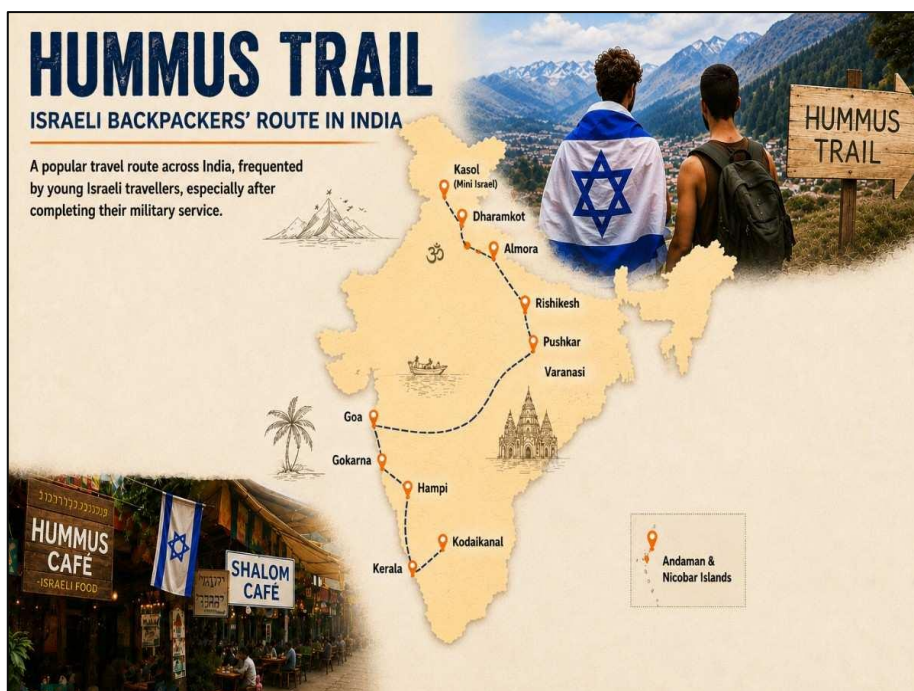
International Relations, Polity

Mains:

GS Paper II-International Relations, GS Paper III-Internal Security

Current relevance:

The **Hind Rajab Foundation (HRF)** sought action against an Israeli soldier vacationing in India, alleging involvement in **war crimes in Gaza**, bringing attention to the '**Hummus Trail**' and India's legal obligations under the **Geneva Conventions Act, 1960.**



Highlights:

1. Hummus Trail:

It is an **informal tourism route** across India popular among **young Israeli travellers**, particularly after completing their mandatory military service.

2. India's Legal Position:

- i. India is a **signatory** to the **Geneva Conventions** and has enacted the **Geneva Conventions Act, 1960**.
- ii. The Act allows India to take legal action against individuals accused of **grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, irrespective of their nationality** or where the offence occurred.
- iii. Grave breaches include serious violations of international humanitarian law, such as **deliberate attacks on civilians, destruction of civilian infrastructure, torture, and inhuman treatment** during armed conflict.

3. Concerns Associated with the Hummus Trail:

- i. Reports have highlighted concerns over **drug abuse, illegal drug trafficking, rave parties, and mental health issues** among some visitors in locations along the Hummus Trail.
- ii. The issue has also sparked debate on **accountability for alleged international crimes** and the implementation of international humanitarian law.

4. Significance:

The case highlights the importance of **international humanitarian law, India's treaty obligations**, and the growing relevance of **universal jurisdiction** in addressing alleged war crimes across national boundaries.

Source: THE HINDU

5. Australia–India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains (PACTS)

Prelims:

International Relations, Science & Technology

Mains:

GS Paper II–International Relations, GS Paper III–Science & Technology, Internal Security

Current relevance:

India and Australia have launched the **Australia–India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains (PACTS)**, replacing the 2020 Framework Arrangement on Cyber and Cyber Enabled Critical Technology Cooperation.



At a glance:

1. **PACTS (Australia–India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains)** is a new bilateral strategic framework that strengthens cooperation in **cyber security, critical technologies, resilient supply chains, digital resilience, and defence research.**

2. It replaces the 2020 Framework Arrangement on **Cyber and Cyber Enabled Critical Technology Cooperation**.

3. **Objective:**

To strengthen **national and regional security** by building resilient supply chains, promoting trusted **critical technologies**, enhancing cyber security, and supporting **inclusive digital transformation**.

4. **Five Pillars of Cooperation:**

i. **Supply Chain Resilience and Diversification**

Australia and India will strengthen secure and resilient supply chains by enhancing cooperation in trusted technologies, critical minerals, semiconductors, undersea cable connectivity, bilateral trade, research, and investment.

ii. **Critical Technologies**

Collaborate in **Artificial Intelligence (AI), biotechnology, telecommunications, space technology**, and advanced materials while promoting research, innovation, international standards, and secure digital infrastructure.

iii. **Cyber Security**

strengthen cooperation in cyber security by tackling **cybercrime, protecting critical infrastructure, promoting capacity building**, and developing cyber skills.

iv. **Digital Resilience**

Promote **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** and collaborate on **trusted digital solutions** to strengthen digital resilience across the Indo-Pacific.

v. **Defence Research Collaboration**

Strengthen **defence research cooperation** by promoting collaboration in defence technology, maritime capabilities, innovation, and start-up ecosystems.

Source: PIB-

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2282692®=3&lang=1>

6. India–New Zealand Strategic Partnership

Prelims:

International Relations

Mains:

GS Paper II-International Relations, GS Paper III- Economy, Science & Technology, Internal Security

Current relevance:

India and New Zealand elevated their bilateral relations to a **Strategic Partnership** during the meeting of the Prime Ministers in **Auckland, New Zealand**. Both countries adopted **the Roadmap to 2030**.



Key Highlights

1. Aims to **strengthen institutional engagement** through regular high-level political, ministerial, parliamentary, and senior officials' dialogues.

2. Targets **doubling bilateral trade by 2030**, alongside early implementation of the **India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**.
3. Enhances cooperation in the **Indo-Pacific**, maritime security, counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, disaster resilience, climate action, education, research, and emerging technologies.
4. Promotes greater **people-to-people connectivity**, cultural exchanges, tourism, sports, diaspora engagement, and direct air connectivity.
5. Expands collaboration in **agriculture, horticulture, forestry, dairy, animal husbandry**, and sustainable energy through platforms such as the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** and **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**.
6. Reaffirms commitment to a **rules-based Indo-Pacific**, peaceful dispute resolution under **UNCLOS**, and cooperation at the **United Nations**, including support for **UN Security Council reforms**.

Six Pillars of the Roadmap to 2030:

A comprehensive six-pillar framework to deepen cooperation over the next four years across political, security, economic, people-to-people, scientific, and multilateral domains. The roadmap is **non-legally binding**, creates **no financial commitments**, and serves as a guiding framework for future collaboration.

1. Political & Diplomatic Engagement

- **Regular dialogues** to oversee implementation. (PM/Minister level)

2. Defence & Security Cooperation

- Strengthen defence cooperation through military exercises, defence dialogues, implementation of the **2025 Defence MoU**, maritime cooperation arrangements, the **Maritime Security Dialogue**, and a **Mutual Logistics Support** Arrangement.
- Enhance collaboration through the **Cyber Dialogue**, Joint Working Group on **Counter-Terrorism, anti-narcotics cooperation**, and the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**.

3. Trade & Economic Cooperation

- **Trade target of NZ\$7 billion by 2030**, implementation of the **FTA**, operationalisation of the **Authorised Economic Operators Mutual Recognition Arrangement (AEO-MRA)**, cooperation in agriculture, horticulture, forestry, dairying, tourism, and promotion of **direct non-stop flights**.

4. People, Culture & Sport

- Diaspora engagement, implementation of the **Sports MoU**, traditional medicine exchanges, maritime heritage cooperation, recognition of seafarer competency certificates, cultural exchanges, and local government partnerships.

5. Education, Research, Science & Technology, and Disaster Management

- Education partnerships, research collaboration in **agriculture, climate, digital transformation, and emerging technologies**, cooperation under **ISA** and **GBA**, and disaster management partnership between **NDMA (India)** and **NEMA (New Zealand)**.

6. Regional & Multilateral Cooperation

- Coordination in **ASEAN-led forums**, cooperation under the **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)**, support for **UNCLOS**, enhanced collaboration at the **United Nations**, and support for India's permanent membership in a reformed **UN Security Council**.

Source: PIB-

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2283529®=48&lang=1>

7. Codex Alimentarius Commission

Prelims:

International Organizations, Agriculture

Mains:

GS Paper II-Governance, GS Paper III-Agriculture, Science & Technology

Current relevance:

At the 49th Session of the **Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49)** held in **Geneva, Switzerland**, India secured major achievements, including the adoption of **seven India-led Codex standards and guidelines** and approval to develop a **Codex Standard for Cashew Kernels**.



At a glance:

About Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC):

1. It is a joint body of the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** and the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, established in **1963** to develop international food standards.
2. Develops **science-based international food standards** to protect consumer health and facilitate fair food trade.

Key outcomes for India:

Seven India-led Codex Texts Adopted

1. **Under India's Chairmanship:**

- i. **Codex Standard for Dried Coriander Seeds** – promotes harmonized quality standards and facilitates global spice trade.
- ii. **Codex Standard for Fresh Curry Leaves** – establishes the first international quality benchmark for curry leaves.

2. Under India's Co-chairmanship:

- i. Adopted Codex Standards for **Vanilla and Large Cardamom** to establish internationally harmonised quality requirements.
- ii. Guidelines for the **safe use and reuse of water** in food **production and processing** to promote food safety and sustainable water management.
- iii. Guidelines for controlling **Campylobacter and Salmonella** in chicken meat to reduce foodborne illnesses.
- iv. **Food labelling** provisions for **joint presentation and multipack formats** to improve clarity and consistency in food labels.

3. Cashew Kernel Standard Approved:

- i. CAC approved India's proposal to develop a **Codex Standard for Cashew Kernels** under the **Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV)**.
- ii. Expected to improve export competitiveness, reduce technical barriers, and facilitate fair international trade.

Source: PIB –

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2284554®=3&lang=1>

8. Red Sea: A Strategic Hinge Between West Asia and the Horn of Africa

Prelims:

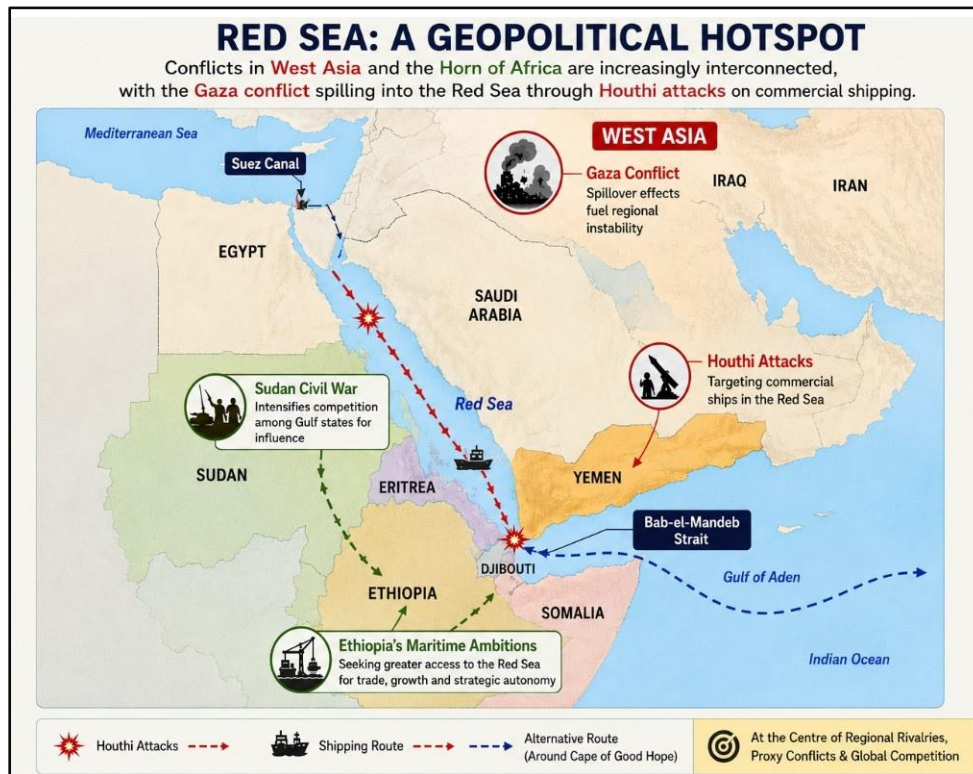
International Relations

Mains:

GS Paper II-International Relations, GS Paper III- Internal Security

Current relevance:

The **Red Sea has** emerged as a major **geopolitical hotspot** as conflicts in **West Asia and the Horn of Africa** become increasingly interconnected, with the Gaza conflict spilling into the Red Sea through Houthi attacks on commercial shipping.



Highlights:

1. **Red Sea** Connects the **Mediterranean Sea** to the Indian Ocean through the **Suez Canal** and **Bab-el-Mandeb Strait**.
2. It is a **vital global maritime trade corridor** through which a significant share of international commerce and energy supplies passes.
3. **Gaza Conflict Spillover:**
 - i. The **Houthis** linked their attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea to the ongoing **Gaza conflict**, **targeting vessels** associated with **Israel and Western countries**.

- ii. These attacks expanded the conflict from the land domain to the maritime domain, disrupting global shipping routes, threatening international trade, and further intensifying **regional instability in West Asia and the Red Sea**.

1. **Sudan Civil War and Gulf Rivalries:**

- i. **Sudan's** ongoing **civil war** has intensified regional power competition, with **Gulf countries** seeking to expand their influence through political support, economic investments, and security partnerships.
- ii. As a result, Sudan has emerged as a key arena for **geopolitical rivalry**, where competing regional interests shape the country's political and security landscape.

2. **Ethiopia's Maritime Ambitions:**

- i. Since **Eritrea's independence in 1993**, Ethiopia has been a landlocked country and has actively sought greater access to the Red Sea to reduce its dependence on neighboring ports.
- ii. **Maritime access** is considered crucial for enhancing economic growth, diversifying trade routes, reducing transportation costs, and strengthening the country's **strategic autonomy and regional influence**.

Red sea:

- It is a **semi-enclosed saltwater sea** located between **Northeast Africa** and the **Arabian Peninsula**.
- It is one of the world's **most strategically important maritime waterways**, connecting **Europe, Asia, and Africa**.
- It is bordered by six countries—**Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen**.

Horn of Africa:

- It is a strategically important region comprising Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia, located at the junction of the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and the Indian Ocean.

Source: THE HINDU - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/red-sea-a-hinge-between-west-asia-and-horn-of-africa/article71217772.ece>

9. WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

Prelims:

International Organizations

Mains:

GS Paper II- International relations, GS Paper III- Indian Economy, Agriculture

Current relevance:

India has **deposited its Instrument of Acceptance** of the **WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS)** on July 2026, becoming the 123rd WTO Member to join the Agreement.



Highlights:

1. About WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS):

- i. It is adopted at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (Geneva, June 2022), is the **first multilateral WTO agreement** with an **environmental sustainability** objective.

- ii. It seeks to promote the **conservation and sustainable use of marine fisheries resources** while providing appropriate flexibilities for developing and least-developed countries.
- iii. The Agreement covers subsidies related to marine wild capture fishing and fishing-related activities at sea, while **aquaculture and inland fisheries remain outside its scope.**

2. Significance for India:

- i. Promotes sustainable fisheries while safeguarding the livelihoods of **traditional and small-scale fishing** communities.
- ii. Creates a fairer global fisheries regime by **curbing harmful subsidies** to large industrial fishing fleets.
- iii. Strengthens **India's reputation as a responsible seafood exporter**, enhancing access to sustainability-conscious international markets.
- iv. Since India's seafood exports are largely **aquaculture-based shrimp**, which is outside the Agreement's scope, the competitiveness of exports remains protected.

3. India's Fisheries Management Framework

- i. Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Rules, 2025.
- ii. Guidelines for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the High Seas by Indian-Flagged Fishing Vessels, 2025.
- iii. Capacity-building initiatives under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

Source: PIB –

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2286763®=48&lang=1>

10. Truncated Common Wealth Games 2026

Prelims:

International Sports Events

Mains:

GS Paper II-International Relations, GS Paper III- Sports

Current relevance:

The **2026 Commonwealth Games (CWG)** are being held in **Glasgow**, Scotland.



Highlights:

1. Common wealth Games are **quadrennial** international **multi-sport event** that brings together athletes from across the Commonwealth of Nations.
2. The 2026 Commonwealth Games, officially known as the **XXIII Commonwealth Games** and commonly known as **Glasgow 2026**, events being held from 23 July to 2 August 2026 in Glasgow, Scotland.
3. **Why is it truncated?**

On April 2022, Victoria State (Australia) was announced as host after bidding.

But in July 2023 concerned government **withdrew** from hosting citing Unsustainable costs. With no host, there was a risk that the Games might be postponed to 2027 or

cancelled entirely. For a brief period, Gold Coast (Queensland) along with **Singapore and Malaysia** tried to host but **backed up** for similar reasons.

Indian Relevance:

1. **Preparation for the 2030 Commonwealth Games (Ahmedabad)**
 - i. **India will host the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad**, the 2026 Games provide valuable experience for Indian athletes, coaches, and sports administrators before hosting the next edition.
 - ii. Offers valuable **organisational and administrative** experience.
 - iii. Demonstrates a **financially sustainable model of hosting**, encouraging greater use of existing infrastructure and reduced event costs for future multi-sport competitions.
2. Provides **international exposure to young and emerging athletes** before major global events.
3. **Preparation event for the upcoming 2026 Asian Games**, Acts as a stepping stone towards the Asian Games, World Championships and Olympic Games.
4. Helps sports federations assess the effectiveness of coaching, sports science and high-performance training programmes.
5. Maintains India's **international sporting presence** despite the reduced scale of the Games.

Source: THE HINDU - <https://www.thehindu.com/sport/glasgow-2026-commonwealth-games-india-preview/article71255062.ece>

11. India–Panama Maritime Partnership

Prelims:

International Relations, Economy

Mains:

GS Paper II– Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings, GS Paper III

-Infrastructure

Current relevance:

The **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**, held bilateral talks with **Panama's Minister of Foreign Affairs**, to strengthen maritime cooperation.



Highlights:

1. India and Panama agreed to deepen cooperation in **shipping, logistics, maritime security, skill development, and digital transformation**, recognising these as the key pillars of their expanded strategic partnership.
2. India identified **Panama as its natural gateway to Central America, Latin America, and the Caribbean**, while recognising its role as one of the world's foremost **maritime logistics hubs**.
3. Both countries agreed to leverage **Panama's strategic logistics strengths** and **India's expanding maritime capabilities** to:
 - i. Build resilient supply chains
 - ii. Strengthen global connectivity
 - iii. Promote trade and investment
 - iv. Foster innovation and sustainable growth

4. Panama identified **four priority areas** for expanding maritime cooperation:
 - i. Maritime security.
 - ii. Technical collaboration between **India's Directorate General of Shipping** and the **Panama Maritime Authority**.
 - iii. Maritime education and skilling.
 - iv. Digital maritime transformation, including artificial Intelligence (AI), smart port logistics, maritime single-window systems.
5. India highlighted its ongoing transformation through investments in **Ports, Shipping, Inland waterways, Logistics, shipbuilding, cruise tourism, green maritime** initiatives.
6. **Future Collaboration:**

India proposed cooperation in maritime transportation and port development, **green ship recycling**, Seafarer welfare and skill development, **Port modernization**, warehousing, **digital innovation**, maritime infrastructure.

Source: PIB –

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2288042®=48&lang=1>