

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS****RAISINA DIALOGUE 2022**

Recently, the seventh edition of the Raisina Dialogue was held in New Delhi.

**Raisina Dialogue, 2022**

- The theme for the Conference was 'Terranova- Impassioned, Impatient, Imperiled'.
- **It had six thematic pillars:**
  - **Rethinking Democracy:** trade, technology and ideology
  - **End of Multilateralism:** a networked global order
  - **Water Caucuses:** turbulent tides in the Indo-Pacific
  - **Communities Inc:** first responders to health, development, and planet
  - **Achieving Green Transitions:** common imperative, diverging realities
  - **Samson vs Goliath:** the persistent and relentless technology wars
- The Raisina Young Fellows programme was also conducted along with the Conference.
- The Raisina Dialogue is India's premier foreign policy conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community.
  - The first session was held in 2016.
- It is organized on the lines of the Shangri La Dialogue which takes place annually in Singapore and is co-hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF).
- The name Raisina Hills comes from the place where India's seat of power resides. It is an area in Delhi where the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and other important government offices are situated.

**Important Takeaways of Conference**

- The Conference had deliberation on hosts of issues plaguing the international community. Certain important deliberations were on:
  - **Economy and Finance:**
    - Regarding ring-fencing the global financial flows and mechanisms from political blockages.
    - Securing supplies of rare earth minerals and semiconductors to ensure the spread of sustainable, quality infrastructure.
    - Role of QUAD in carving new economic architecture for the Indo-Pacific.
    - Measures to reverse deglobalisation.
    - Banking the next 2 billion, the future of digital banking.
    - Authoritarian regimes' determined pursuit for tech supremacy and the perils of the big techs.
  - **Health:**
    - Ways through which the international community can ensure the supply lines essential to health and food security.
  - **Energy:**
    - Ensuring maritime nations play an instrumental role in shaping new low-carbon development strategies while also dealing with biodiversity preservation, the costs of adaptation and with debt burdens worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - **Geopolitical:**
    - Measures through which India can strengthen the W20 during its G20 Presidency.
    - Role of America in the wake of the Afghanistan debacle and Ukraine crisis.
    - Measures to sustain the post-World War consensus with the current role of America.
    - Ways through which Africa can contribute to a new economic order led by women and strengthened through diversity and inclusion.
    - Measure to harmonise Global Gateway Project, Belt and Road Initiative and Build Back Better World (B3W) initiative along with political tensions associated.
  - **COVID-19:**
    - Measures to build self-reliance and bring businesses back to track in the aftermath of Covid 19.
    - Ways to boost economic recovery and sustainability in the post-pandemic economic architecture.

- Channeling infrastructure capital to serve both strategic aims and developing nations' need for resilience and self-reliance.
- **Women:**
  - Role of women leadership in securing the SDGs.
  - Empowering women post- covid 19 and unlocking their potential for accelerated development.

#### **Significance of Raisina Dialogue**

- With the first session in 2016, the Raisina Dialogue has grown in stature and profile to emerge as a leading global conference on international affairs.
- It brings together leaders from the global strategic and policy-making community to discuss key geopolitical developments and strategic issues facing the world.
- The theme every year at the Conference is aligned to issues of utmost importance for the global community. The brainstorming ensuing helps policymakers across countries to tinker with their policy regime to rectify the issue.
- It maps the evolving geopolitical and geoeconomic trendlines, questions the persisting dogma and encourages future oriented thinking.
- It reinforces rules based international order by having on board different voices and opinions and bringing forth a consensus amongst them.
- It has helped India come on the world map when it comes to having a global think tank and a seat for setting up rules for multilateral institutions.

### **IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM**

#### **1. Integrated Election Complex**

Recently, the Chief Election Commissioner of India inaugurated the Integrated Election Complex in Delhi.

##### **Integrated Election Complex**

- It is constructed for warehousing and management of EVMs & VVPATs of NCT of Delhi.
- The **Integrated Election Complex** has been built by the Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi and Delhi Tourism.
- It is a milestone for the Election Commission of India.
- **State of art technology:** The Complex, first of its kind, is conceptualised with all state of the art features and administrative safety protocols for storage, security and movement of EVMs.
- **Checking capacity:** The Complex has comprehensive facilities for conducting First Level Checking of EVMs & VVPATs as per ECI's guidelines. The First Level Checking halls can also be used for large meetings and training sessions.

##### **Electronic Voting Machine (EVM)**

- EVMs have been used in all elections since 2004 and so far over 350 crore+ voters have reposed their faith and cast their vote through EVMs in 4 General Elections and 37 Assembly Elections.
- EVMs are an engineering marvel. Their few characteristics are:
  - EVMs are non-tamperable.
  - Provided accurate and timely results establishing their credibility since these were first put to use 4 decades back on pilot basis.
  - EVMs are vital to avoid any glitches and ensure uniformity.

VVPAT audit trail introduced since 2019 General Elections, has further established the credibility of EVMs with no mismatch being found in the votes cast in EVM and counting of VVPAT slips.

#### **2. India's Eight Core Sectors**

The Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade released the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) for the Month of March, 2022.

##### **Major Points**

- Output from India's eight core sectors grew by 4.3% in March, moderately lower than the 6% growth recorded in February, but still reflecting the second highest growth rate over five months.

##### **Index of Eight Core Industries**

- ICI measures combined and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries viz. Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilisers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.

- The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 percent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

#### **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**

- The base year of the index has been revised to 2011-12 from 2004-05 in alignment with the new series of IIP.

#### **3. Atal Tunnel**

Recently, Atal Tunnel received the Indian Building Congress (IBC) 'Best Infrastructure Project'.

##### **Atal Tunnel**

- It is the longest highway single-tube tunnel above 10,000 feet (3,048 m) in the world and is named after former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- It is a 9.02 km long, strategically significant Tunnel that runs under the 'Rohtang Pass' that was constructed on the Manali - Leh Highway.
- Constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- It cuts through a mountain west of the Rohtang pass and shortens the distance between Solang Valley and Sissu by around 46 km.

##### **Significance**

- It has reduced the distance on Manali - Sarchu road by 46 km and travel time by four to five hours, providing all-weather connectivity on the Manali - Leh axis.
- The tunnel provides a strategic advantage to the country's armed forces by providing year-long connectivity to border areas. It will save an entire day for troops and supplies as they move towards forwarding posts.
- The tunnel will be a boon to the residents of the Lahaul and Spiti Valley who remain cut off from the rest of the country in winters for nearly six months due to heavy snowfall.

#### **DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Q1. The future of SAARC remains bleak but it is in India's interests to take the lead and work collectively towards a secure and prosperous South Asia. Critically Analyse. (250 words)**

##### **Introduction**

SAARC was mooted in 1985, which created the hope that trade, cultural activity and intellectual exchange would gradually diminish the political legacies of Partition by nourishing a regional fraternity. The dream is still relevant, but SAARC has remained incapable of responding to the unabated rise of identity-based aggression and violence. Along with this, a remarkable degree of indifference to others' woes has grown.

##### **Body**

##### **The Future of SAARC remains bleak:**

- The region is beset with unsettled territorial disputes, as well as trans-border criminal and subversive activities.
- It remains a theatre for ethnic, cultural, and religious tensions and rivalries.
- A current rise in ultra-nationalism is taking place against the backdrop of a bloody history of repeated inter-state wars and myriad intra-state conflicts.
- Nuclear-armed neighbours India and Pakistan are at loggerheads.
- Cross-border terrorism has again made the region, as former US President Bill Clinton once deemed it, "the world's most dangerous place."
- Allowing SAARC to become dysfunctional and irrelevant greatly distorts our ability to address the realities and mounting challenges facing SAARC nations.
- The failure of South Asian nations to act in accord will plunge South Asia into a perilous theatre of discord and escalating tensions with jihadi militias at the forefront, placing the entire region in turmoil.

##### **SAARC is imperative for South Asian countries:**

- SAARC is needed as institutional scaffolding to allow for the diplomacy and coordination that is needed between member-states in order to adequately address the numerous threats and challenges the region faces.
- Though SAARC's charter prohibits bilateral issues at formal forums, SAARC summits provide a unique, informal window — the retreat — for leaders to meet without aides and chart future courses of action.
- The coming together of leaders, even at the height of tensions, in a region laden with congenial suspicions, misunderstandings, and hostility is a significant strength of SAARC that cannot be overlooked.

- SAARC members are among the top troop-contributing countries to UN peacekeeping missions. With the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, a joint peacekeeping force from the SAARC region under the UN aegis could be explored to fill the power vacuum that would otherwise be filled by terrorist and extremist forces.

**Reviving SAARC is in India's interests:**

- India should take the lead and work with its neighbors to slash the tariff and non-tariff barriers.
- SAARC should also seek free and preferential trading arrangements with other regional bodies, notably the EU and the ASEAN. It should also remain fully focused on the SAARC social charter to spread out its reach to the common man.
- There is a need to focus on small politics instead of big politics to resolve conflict in conflicting regions. This would mean that they focus on economic cooperation and other small ways that can create cooperation and more peace
- SAARC cannot be effective unless it places itself on a managerial position to achieve regional order, forcing all the members to act mutually in making the region a 'zone of peace' and the center for world business.
- All countries should come together to sort out their differences, either multilaterally or bilaterally. It's not necessary to sort out the differences but despite that, it is necessary to work with the differences like that of India-China, Japan and China, Russia and Japan.
- The bilateral issues between member nations should be resolved. Bilateral Issues between India-Pakistan, India- Sri Lanka, Pakistan- Afghanistan etc. must be improved with serious engagement and collaboration – working together to bring peace and stability as a common good in the region.
- Information on terrorism, trafficking, smuggling etc. must be shared and joint exercises must be conducted to build mutual trust and capability.
- SAARC needs to work on Improving infrastructure and regional connectivity – Collaboration in scientific research, universities exchange programs, tourism etc. will have a positive effect on relations among countries.

**Conclusion:**

SAARC has the potential to transform the South Asian Region. Mutual mistrust and non-cooperation should not be allowed to undermine this potential. Deeper regional economic integration will create greater interdependence with India acquiring the central role, which, in turn, would serve India's strategic interests too. SAARC should function as an autonomous institution by which driving principles, strategic actions, and rules of law can be implemented in a way that is relevant to both, its own members and other rising powers.

**DAILY QUIZ**

- Consider the following statements
  - In judicial appointment in highcourt, the appointment is done by the president in consultation of CJI, and sc judges
  - Here consultation means concurrence or boundancy
 Choose the correct statement/s
 

a) 1 only                      b) 2 only                      c) Both                      d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Examine the following statement/s
  - Marine animals compose higher biomass than terrestrial animals
  - Livestock animals compose higher biomass than wild animals
 Choose the incorrect statement/s using the following codes
 

a) 1 only                      b) 2 only                      c) Both                      d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Consider the following statement with regards to relation between Anchor investor relation and Initial Public Offerings(IPOs)
  - An anchor investor in an IPO is a qualified institutional buyer (QIB) like a foreign portfolio investor which invests before the IPO is made available to the public as per Sebi regulations.
  - The demand in the anchor category is an indication of the success of the IPO
  - Anchor investors also aid in price discovery of the IPO
 Choose the correct statement/s using the code given below
 

a) 1 and 3 only                      b) 1 and 2 only                      c) 2 and 3 only                      d) All of the above
- The principle of "Bodily integrity" is protected under which of the article of Indian constitution
 

a) Article 19                      b) Article 21                      c) Article 45                      d) Article 29
- Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) released by



- a) NSSO                      b) CSO                      c) **IHS Markit**                      d) RBI
6. Which of the following date declared as world press freedom day by UN ?  
a) **3rd May**                      b) 5th May                      c) 6th May                      d) 10th May
7. Which of the following are the main reason behind India adopted a centralised federal structure  
1. The partition of India and its concomitant concerns  
2. To forge a national civic identity.  
3. Objective of building a welfare state  
4. To alleviate inter-regional economic inequality.  
Choose the correct answer using the codes given below  
a) 1 and 4 only                      b) 2 and 3 only                      c) 2 and 4 only                      **d) All of the above**
8. Three language formula is related to which of the following committee?  
a) Fazal ali Committee                      **b) Kothari Committee**  
c) Rajamannar Committee                      d) Dutt Committee
9. Consider the following statements  
1. Neurons, or nerve cells, in the brain connect by means of junctions known as synapses through which they transmit signals.  
2. Recently researchers have chosen Zebrafish as a model organism to study synapses process  
Which of the above statement/s is/are correct ?  
a) 1 only                      b) 2 only                      **c) Both**                      d) Neither 1 nor 2
10. "National Oxygen stewardship programme" was recently mentioned in news is associated with  
**a) The initiative aims to empower all health care workers engaged in oxygen management and administration**  
b) To make oxygen corridor across the country  
c) Establish oxygen plant in every state  
d) An initiative to direct link the industry with hospitals to supply oxygen
11. With reference to Ebola virus disease (EVD), consider the following statements:  
1. Fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family are natural Ebola virus hosts.  
2. Human to human transmission is not possible .  
3. It first appeared in 1976 in the United States of America(USA).  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
(a) 1 and 3 only                      (b) 2 only                      (c) 1 and 2 only                      **(d) only 1**
12. With reference to Index of Eight Core Industries(IIP) , consider the following statements:  
1. It is released by the Ministry of Finance (MoF).  
2. Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 percent of the weight of items included in the IIP.  
3. The base year has been revised to 2011-12 from 2004-05 in alignment with the new series of IIP.  
Which of the statements given above are correct?  
(a) 1 and 3 only                      **(b) 2 and 3 only**                      (c) 1 and 2 only                      (d) only 1
13. Consider the following statements with respect to National Mission on Edible Oil-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP):  
1. It is a Central sector scheme with an objective of increasing area and productivity under Oilseeds and Oil Palm.  
2. The scheme subsumed the erstwhile National Food Security Mission-Oil Palm programme.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
(a) Neither 1 nor 2                      **(b) 2 only**                      (c) 1 and 2 only                      (d) only 1
14. With reference to Hatti community, consider the following statements  
1. It is a Scheduled Tribe from Uttarakhand.  
2. They follow Khumbli which is a traditional council despite the establishment of the panchayat system.  
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?  
(a) Neither 1 nor 2                      **(b) 2 only**                      (c) 1 and 2 only                      (d) only 1
15. Which of the following have been accorded legal status in India?  
1. Sukhna Lake  
2. Nature  
3. All animals, birds, aquatic life in state of Haryana  
4. River Yamuna  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
(a) 1 and 3 only                      (b) 2 and 4 only                      (c) 1 and 2 only                      **(d) 1,2, 3 and 4**