

INTERNATIONAL RELATION❖ **The conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh**

❖ **CONTEXT:** The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh has been at the centre of three major wars and multiple clashes for decades. The recent flare-up began on August 3 after Azerbaijan claimed that it had captured the territory in Karabakh in a retaliatory campaign, after an Armenian attack killed one Azerbaijani soldier.

❖ **What happened?**

- The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains stalemated despite the several ceasefire agreements reached in the past. Both Baku and Yerevan claim absolute historic ownership of the region which is located within the boundaries of Azerbaijan but is populated largely by ethnic Armenians.
- Following Azerbaijan's announcement of capturing Karabakh, the military in Nagorno-Karabakh disputed the claim and accused Azerbaijan of killing two soldiers, declaring a "partial mobilisation" in response to the clash.
- Armenia has called on the international community to help stop Azerbaijan's "aggressive actions" claiming that it continues its "policy of terror" against the population of Nagorno-Karabakh.
- Russia has also accused Azerbaijan of breaking the ceasefire agreement of 2020 and claimed that it was "taking measures to stabilise the situation" with Armenian and Azerbaijani representatives.

❖ **What does the 2020 agreement say?**

- The nine-point agreement of November 10, 2020 was signed by Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, and Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- The agreement imposed an immediate ceasefire, a timeline for withdrawal from Azerbaijan's occupied regions, the introduction of Russian peacekeepers, and the need for new transport corridors. However, this failed to initiate a peace agreement because it altered the power balance between the two countries and lacked clarity on several issues resulting in the subsequent ceasefire violations on both sides.

❖ **Why are ceasefire agreements not working?**

- The recurring ceasefire violations have been triggered due to several unresolved issues. The major issues include delimiting the border between the two countries, the nature of new transportation corridors in the region, and the future of Nagorno-Karabakh and its current ethnic Armenian population.
- First, the issue of delineating the shared international border. Following the 2020 agreement, a substantial amount of territory was handed over from Armenian Karabakh to Azerbaijan making the once soft border between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, a hard international border. However, Armenia and Azerbaijan have never agreed upon a boundary between them in the past and the 2020 ceasefire statement did not make it clear on how exactly the border should be drawn out.
- Second, the dispute over transport routes. The overland route that goes from Stepanakert (a city within the Nagorno-Karabakh region) to Armenia has become an issue between the two countries. The 2020 agreement states that the parties should build an alternative road within three years, after which the Russian peacekeepers deployed along the current route would relocate to the new one.
- Presently, there is only one road which is the Lachin corridor, which runs past the outposts through Azerbaijan's mountainous Lachin region to Shusha, which Azerbaijani forces retook in the 2020 war. The construction of the road would allow Azerbaijan to take back control of Lachin city and surrounding areas. However, Azerbaijan has accused Armenia of stalling operations of laying its several-kilometre section of the new road.
- Third, the difference over the status of Nagorno-Karabakh. The ethnically Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is also known as the Republic of Artsakh, has expressed frustration over Armenia's willingness to make concessions to Azerbaijan as part of a larger prospective peace settlement. While Armenia supports the aspirations for independence of Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan seeks to preserve its national and territorial integrity.
- According to the 2020 agreement, point one claims that the parties to the conflict must "stop in their current positions" while point four states that the Russian peacekeeping forces would be deployed concurrently with the withdrawal of the Armenian troops.
- However, the two sides interpret these points differently with Armenia stating that the first point allows them to keep their forces in Karabakh and that they have complied with the fourth point by withdrawing armed forces from the seven Azerbaijani districts around Karabakh. Conversely, according to Azerbaijan Armenian forces should have withdrawn from Karabakh as soon as the Russians were deployed on the ground, arguing that the force is illegal and has urged the Russian peacekeepers to disarm it.
- Fourth, the dispute over the exchange of prisoners. According to the eighth point, the two sides were to exchange prisoners of war, hostages and other detained persons, and dead bodies. While there has been a

series of prisoner exchanges in the last two years, the Azerbaijan side still has many captives while Armenia has just a few.

❖ **What about the negotiations?**

- Since 2020, the negotiation process has been slow. The diplomatic initiative taken by Armenia and Azerbaijan has not yielded any substantial gains with both sides accusing each other of delaying negotiations.
- It was only in 2022, two years after the war, that the two leaders expressed their intention to discuss a peace plan for Nagorno-Karabakh. The two leaders met in Brussels during which Azerbaijan voiced its frustration that subsequent diplomacy has moved too slowly, claiming that Armenia was prolonging the negotiations with the aim of waiting for the geopolitical situation to change in their favour. Thus, the negotiations between the two countries are nowhere close to reaching a peace agreement.

❖ **What is Russia's role?**

- The presence of Russian peacekeeping forces in the region has also become a matter of concern. According to points three and four of the 2020 agreement, the Russian peacekeeping forces are to be deployed for five years making it the first time Russian troops were deployed on the ground in almost thirty years. However, their mandate is yet to be defined, questioning their presence in the region. Additionally, the frustration over the peacekeeping forces has intensified due to their inaction in stopping ceasefire violations.

❖ **Will the ceasefire hold?**

- While the 2020 agreement has the potential to open opportunities for new transport connections and economic cooperation, the discord between Armenia and Azerbaijan would hinder this process.
- Further, the agreement has been criticised for being biased. Apart from this, the agreement also fails to address unresolved issues between the two countries. Thus, until these lacunae are filled the recurring ceasefire violations are likely to continue.

❖ **The controversial visit of a Chinese vessel to Hambantota**

- ❖ **CONTEXT: On August 13, Sri Lanka approved the arrival of a Chinese satellite-tracking vessel to its southern Chinese-funded Hambantota port. It was the second approval from the island nation's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, after it first cleared the visit on July 12. India raised concerns over the ship's visit with President Ranil Wickremesinghe, and officially commented on it.**

❖ **What is the vessel?**

- Yuan Wang 5 was described by the Sri Lankan government as a "scientific research ship".
- The BRISL (Belt & Road Initiative Sri Lanka), a Colombo-based organisation studying China's ambitious connectivity project, was the first to draw attention to the visit in a Twitter post late July.
- According to it the Yuan Wang 5 will conduct "satellite control and research tracking in the north-western part of the Indian Ocean Region" through August and September.
- Vessels of the Yuan Wang class are said to be used for tracking and supporting satellite as well as intercontinental ballistic missiles by the People's Liberation Army Strategic Support Force.

❖ **How have different countries reacted?**

- India has expressed its concern over the Chinese vessel visit. India "carefully monitors any development having a bearing on its security and economic interests" and later said that they were "rejecting insinuations" that Sri Lanka was "pressured".
- An official statement said the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister firmly backed the 'One China Policy' that President Wickremesinghe earlier endorsed. The developments showed that Colombo was caught between the U.S. and India on the one hand, and China on the other. That too at a time when the Sri Lankan government is counting on all their support as the island nation, hit by a devastating economic crisis, embarks on debt restructuring ahead of a promised International Monetary Fund (IMF) package.

❖ **How did China respond?**

- China reacted strongly after Sri Lanka, following concerns voiced by India, requested China to defer the visit of the vessel "in light of the need for further consultations".
- First, Sri Lanka is a transportation hub in the Indian Ocean. Scientific research vessels from various countries including China have made port calls in Sri Lanka for replenishment. China always exercises freedom of the high seas in accordance with the law and fully respects coastal countries' jurisdiction over scientific research activities in waters under their jurisdiction.
- Second, Sri Lanka is a sovereign country. It has the right to develop relations with other countries based on its development interests. To have normal cooperation is the independent choice made by our two countries. It serves the shared interests of both sides and does not target any third party." Without directly referring to India, it was "completely unjustified for certain countries to cite the so-called 'security concerns' to pressure Sri Lanka."

❖ **What is Sri Lanka's stand?**

- According to Sri Lanka it considered all material; on 13 August 2022 the clearance to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China was conveyed for the deferred arrival of the vessel from 16-22 August 2022.
- The announcement meant that the controversial vessel visit, earlier scheduled for August 11, was effectively postponed by five days, while its week-long duration remained as was earlier planned.
- According to Sri Lanka's popular weekend newspaper Sunday Times the U.S. and Indian envoys were asked to provide "concrete reasons" for their objections. "Not satisfied with the reasons being sufficient to refuse entry to the Chinese vessel, the Sri Lankan Government decided to inform the Chinese embassy in Colombo to inform the ship to continue its journey to Hambantota.

PRELIMS

1. ATAGS, the India-made howitzer used in 21-gun salute on Aug 15

❖ **CONTEXT:** In a first, an indigenously developed howitzer gun, ATAG, became part of the 21-gun salute during the Independence Day ceremony at the Red Fort Monday. Developed by the DRDO, the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) was used alongside the traditional British-origin '25 Pounders' artillery guns. Prime Minister also referred to the gun while speaking about the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative of the Centre during his Independence Day speech.

❖ **The 21-gun salute tradition**

- When the National Anthem is played by the Military Band after the unfurling of the Tricolour at the Red Fort by the Prime Minister, a 21-volley gun salute is fired by a ceremonial battery from an artillery regiment.
- The tradition of gun salutes originates from the Western navies where guns from the ports and those from incoming ships used to be fired in a particular manner to convey that there was no belligerent intention.
- This tradition was carried forward as a way of paying respects or for according official welcome to the Crown, royals, military commanders and heads of states.
- India inherited the tradition from the British rulers who had gun salutes comprising 101 volleys, 31 volleys and 21 volleys, and so on depending on the hierarchy.
- In India, artillery gun salutes are fired on the Republic Day, the Independence Day and also at the time of oath taking ceremony of the President, among other occasions.
- Over the years, this 21-gun salute — which are blanks — was fired by the World War era howitzers of British make known as 'Ordnance Quick Fire 25 Pounder' or just '25 Pounder'.

❖ **Inclusion of ATAGS**

- In 2022, two Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) howitzers joined the battery that fired along with other 25 Pounders.
- The ATAGS is an indigenous 155 mm x 52 calibre howitzer gun developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) with its Pune-based facility Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) being the nodal agency.
- Howitzers are an umbrella term for a category of long-range artillery guns.
- Some practice firing sessions of the ATAGS were held in the run up to the Independence Day celebrations.
- Including the ATAGS in the symbolic activity of 21-gun salute is a crucial step in the journey and is significant towards its induction into the Army.

❖ **Development of the ATAGS**

- The ATAGS project was started in 2013 by DRDO to replace older guns in service in the Indian Army with a modern 155 mm artillery gun. With ARDE as the nodal laboratory, other DRDO facilities that joined the development efforts are Instruments Research and Development Establishment (IRDE), Vehicle Research and Development Establishment (VRDE), Proof and Experimental Establishment (PXE), Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR), and Defence Electronics Applications Laboratory (DEAL). The ARDE has collaborated with Bharat Forge Limited and Tata Advanced Systems Ltd for the manufacturing of this specialised gun system.
- After the several tests of the subsystems in the initial phases of development, July 2016 marked a key milestone when the proof-firing of ATAGS was conducted during the technical trials at DRDO's Proof and Experimental Establishment (PXE) in Balasore.
- In August and September 2017, a record target range of around 48 km was achieved at Pokhran Field Firing Range.
- The system has subsequently undergone various levels of trials in different weather and terrain conditions. In 2020, the ATAGS reported a mishap during one of its test firing at Pokhran which was probed by the DRDO.
- The system is currently undergoing an evaluation by the Directorate General Quality Assurance (DGQA) marking its final stage before the Army places orders for it. The DGQA is a nodal agency for the quality assurance of all arms, ammunition, equipment and stores supplied to the Armed Forces.

❖ **ATAGS features**

- The armament system of ATAGS mainly comprises barrel, breech mechanism, muzzle brake and recoil mechanism to fire 155 mm calibre ammunition held by Army with a longer range, accuracy and precision and provides greater firepower.
- The ATAGS is configured with all electric drive to ensure maintenance free and reliable operation over a longer period of time. It has advanced features in terms of high mobility, quick deployability, auxiliary power mode, advanced communication system, automatic command and control system with night firing capability in the direct fire mode.
- During its September 2017 test at Pokhran, the maximum ranges of 38.5 km and 48 km, with boat tail and extended range full bore types of projectiles, were achieved. These are at least 20% more than ranges achieved by any contemporary gun system.
- During the same trials, a minimum range of 4.7 km was achieved from the systems meeting the critical parameter of minimum range at high angle.
- The specialised gun system is compatible with C4I (command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence) systems like the Artillery Combat Command and Control System (ACCCS) called Shakti for technical fire control, fire planning, deployment management, and operational logistics management of the Army.

❖ **Future role**

- The development process of ATAGS by the DRDO coincides with development of Howitzer Dhanush for Advanced Weapons and Equipment India of the erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board.
- In 2019, the Army and the Ministry of Defence gave bulk production clearance to produce 114 Dhanush.

2. **India's Performance in global indices**

- ❖ **CONTEXT:** As India celebrated its 76th Independence, a look at how the country has fared on global indices through the years.

❖ **Press Freedom Index 2022**

- Released by- It is an **annual** publication by Reporters without Borders (RSF), an international non-profit organisation.
- Objective- to compare the level of press freedom enjoyed by journalists and media in 180 countries and territories in the previous calendar year.
- Parameters
 - Qualitative parameter- Based on the responses of “press freedom specialists to an RSF questionnaire
 - Quantitative parameter- A count of abuses against journalists and media outlets
- India's rank- 150 out of 180 countries with a global score of 41
- Top rank- Norway
- Reason for India's poor rank- Violence against journalists, politically partisan media, and concentration of media ownership

❖ **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2022**

- Released by- The EPI is published every two years by researchers from Yale and Columbia Universities in the U.S.
- Parameters- The ranking uses 40 indicators with parameters related to mitigating climate change, improving environmental health, and protecting ecosystem vitality.
- India's rank- 180 out of 180 countries with a score of 18.90
- Top rank- Denmark
- India's response- The Indian government rejected the report, alleging the use of “biased metrics and biased weights” in awarding the scores.

❖ **Global Hunger Index 2021**

- Released by- GHI is an annual publication prepared by NGOs Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.
- Indicators
 - Undernourishment
 - Child wasting
 - Child stunting
 - Child mortality
- India's rank- **101** out of 116 countries
- India's response- The report was rejected by the Indian government, saying that the methodology used in the report was “devoid of ground realities and facts”.

❖ **Global Gender Gap Index 2022**

- Released by- The annual Global Gender Gap Index is a part of the Global Gender Gap Report published by the World Economic Forum.
- Parameters
 - Economic participation and opportunity
 - Educational attainment
 - Health and survival
 - Political empowerment
- India's rank- 135 out of 146 countries
- Top rank- Iceland
- Significance- India was among the three countries where the increase in the share of women in professional and technical roles was most significant.
- In health and survival, India was among the worst global performers.
- ❖ **Global Climate Risk Index 2019**
- Released by- It is published annually by Germany-based NGO Germanwatch.
- Objective- It analyses the extent to which countries have been affected by weather-related loss events like storms, floods, etc.
- India's rank- 7
- Top affected- Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and the Bahamas
- ❖ **Corruption Perceptions Index 2021**
- Released by- The annual report is published by anti-corruption watchdog **Transparency International**.
- Parameter- Perceived levels of public sector corruption
- On a scale of 0 to 100, 0 is highly corrupt, while 100 is very clean.
- India's rank- 85 out of 180 countries
- ❖ **Henley Passport Index 2022**
- Released by- The rankings are prepared by Henley & Partners based on data from the International Air Transport Association.
- Objective- It is essentially a measure of how powerful a country's passport is, i.e., the number of destinations that a country's passport holder can visit without a prior visa.
- India's rank- 87
- Indian passport-holders can access 60 visa-free destinations around the world.
- Top rank- In Japan, passport-holders can access 193 visa-free destinations.
- 3. **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)**
- ❖ **CONTEXT: India Meteorological Department (IMD), the government of Japan, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have announced a new initiative to accelerate climate action in 10 States and Union Territories across the country.**
- NDC is a climate action plan to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts.
- Each Party to the Paris Agreement is required to establish an NDC and update it every five years.
- ❖ **India's NDC**
- India at the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) expressed to intensify its climate action by presenting five nectar elements (Panchamrit) of India's climate action to the world.
- This update to India's existing NDC translates the 'Panchamrit' announced at COP 26 into enhanced climate targets.
- India's new targets comprise five elements.
 - Reducing Emissions Intensity or emissions per unit of GDP by 45% in 2030 relative to 2005 levels
 - Cutting absolute emissions by one billion tonnes, presumably from projected business-as-usual (BAU) 2030 levels
 - 500 GW of non-fossil fuel installed power generation capacity by 2030
 - 50% electricity generation from renewable sources by 2030
 - Net-zero emissions by 2070
- The updated NDC also represents the framework for India's transition to cleaner energy for the period 2021-2030.
- It also states to put forward and further propagate a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation, including through a mass movement for 'LIFE'– 'Lifestyle for Environment' as a key to combating climate change.
- ❖ **Joint IMD-UNDP initiative**
- The joint initiative will support NDCs to achieve net-zero emissions and ensure climate-resilient development.

- It will be rolled out in partnership with the IMD at the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- The initiative envisages the creation of green jobs and green entrepreneurship in sectors like renewable energy by providing skilling and training.
- The project will be rolled out in Bihar, Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh during 2022-23.
- IMD supports the project activities in the districts of Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand and Gyalshing and Soreng in Sikkim with climate forecasts and weather advisories.
- Japan has extended \$5.16 million in climate grant to UNDP India for the project.
- This is part of Japan's global support to 23 countries through UNDP's 'Climate Promise - From Pledge to Impact' program.

4. **Bal Aadhaar initiative**

❖ **CONTEXT: Unique Identification Authority has enrolled more than 79 lakh children in the 0 - 5 age group during the first four months (April – July) of the current financial year.**

- Under Bal Aadhaar initiative. Bal Aadhaar works as a facilitator in availing several welfare benefits, and also works as a digital photo identity for children right from birth.
- Children in the age group of 0-5 years are issued Bal Aadhaar. Collection of biometric (finger prints and iris) is a key feature in issuing Aadhaar as the same is required to establish uniqueness based on de-duplication of these biometrics. However, for Aadhaar enrolment of children in the age group of 0-5 years, these biometrics are not collected.
- Aadhaar enrolment of children in the age group of 0-5 years are carried out based on facial image of the child, and biometric authentication of the parent/guardian (having a valid Aadhaar). A proof of relationship document (preferably birth certificate) is collected at the time of enrolment for Bal Aadhaar.
- To differentiate the Bal Aadhaar from normal Aadhaar, it is issued in blue colour, with a remark that this is valid till the child attains the age of 5 years. On attaining the age of 5, the child is required to furnish his or her biometrics at an Aadhaar Seva Kendra to complete a process called mandatory biometric update (MBU).
- The MBU process goes through a de-duplication process. After completion of this process, the child is issued a normal Aadhaar without any change in the Aadhaar number.
- Enrolments of children in the 0-5 age group in states like Himachal Pradesh and Haryana have already covered more than 70% of the targeted age group. Registration of children (0-5 age group) has also done exceedingly well in several other states and UTs including Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh and Lakshadweep.
- Over all, Aadhaar saturation at present is around 94%. Aadhaar saturation among adults is almost 100%. Aadhaar is now a catalyst of both, ease of living and ease of doing business.

5. **National Write-shop on Preparedness of Roadmap for Revamped National Panchayat Awards**

❖ **CONTEXT: Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, will inaugurate the National Write-shop on Preparedness of Roadmap for Revamped National Panchayat Awards.**

- The National Write-shop will provide orientation on Revamped National Panchayat Awards application process to States/UTs officials from line Departments, who will further percolate it upto Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in a cascade mode.
- Under the revamped system, the Awards will be given to Gram, Block and District Panchayats in two categories namely
 - Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (for individual theme-wise performance)
 - Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (for aggregate performance under all the themes).
- Apart from this, some special categories of awards will be given to Gram Panchayats (GPs) namely,
 - Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar for adoption and usage of renewable sources of energy
 - Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar for exemplary work towards achieving Net-Zero carbon emissions
- During 4th-6th July, 2022, a National Writeshop on Preparedness of Roadmap & Draft Plan of Action on Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) was also organized for States/UTs
- Ministry of Panchayati Raj, on 7th December, 2021 released the report on LSDGs through Panchayati Raj Institutions prepared by an Expert Committee constituted in this Ministry. The Committee in its report has identified 9 themes aggregating 17 SDGs for action at local (Gram Panchayat) level as a way forward for attainment of SDGs by the year 2030.

- These 9 themes are (i) Poverty free and enhanced livelihoods village, (ii) Healthy village, (iii) Child friendly village, (iv) Water sufficient village, (v) Clean and Green village, (vi) Self-sufficient infrastructure in village, (vii) Socially secured village, (viii) Village with good governance and (ix) Women-friendly village (earlier called as Engendered development in village).
- To nudge PRIs for a systematic planning, implementation, monitoring and accountability towards achieving SDGs at the Panchayat level, the National Panchayat Awards have been revamped to establish a multi-level pyramidal structure of awards competition at Block, District, State/UT and National Level aligning it with 9 Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) themes with the aim to:
 - Assess the performance of PRIs in attainment of SDGs through 9 identified themes
 - Promote competitive spirit among PRIs
 - Catalyze the process of 'Localization of SDGs through PRIs' and sensitizing the PRIs about significance of attaining LSDG by 2030

ANSWER WRITTING

Q. Highlight the difference in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom.

Mahatma Gandhi and Subhash Chandra Bose were both legendary personalities, gigantic in their political moral and ethical stature. Both played crucial roles in the freedom movement. They were both internationalists and humanists as well as secular in their approach and anti-social in their outlook. In spite of their common thought process, there were glaring differences in their approach. They are as follows:

- Subhash Chandra Bose was a radical socialist meaning that he wanted to change the existing socio-economic situation whereas Gandhi was a conservative.
- The young members, of INC including Bose demanded complete self-rule without any compromise while the senior members were okay with dominion status for India within British rule.
- Bose had a strong revolutionary urge to achieve freedom while Gandhi believed in passive resistance.
- Bose proposed the idea of complete Independence from the British rule. He wanted Swaraj based on all out struggle. Gandhi on the other hand believed in the concept of Struggle-Truce-Struggle. Gandhi was in favour of trusteeship theory and aspired village to be self-sustained economy.
- Bose was a strong supporter of Fascism which was obvious in his strong belief that India needed a political system which was a mix of fascism and communism. Gandhi on the other hand was an anti fascist who did not propagate any such extreme political system.
- Bose was open to the idea of taking foreign assistance to achieve freedom as seen in the formation of Indian national Association while Gandhi was completely against any such idea.

Despite their ideological differences both Gandhi and Bose spoke highly of each other. There were occasions when Bose praised Gandhi for his success in involvement of women in freedom struggle. Even Gandhi while differing from Bose's extreme methods had utmost admiration for his unique effort for India's freedom, mainly his struggle for freedom from outside India. Cue must be taken from these two great leaders' tolerance and respect towards each other even after serious difference of opinion.

MCQs

1. Consider the following statements
 1. Enrolling a child for a Baal Aadhaar requires a birth certificate or a hospital discharge slip, as well as the Aadhaar of one of the parents.
 2. A mandated biometric update is necessary when a child reaches the age of five.
 3. Their UID will be processed based on demographic data and a facial image connected to their parents' UID.
 Choose the correct statement using the codes given below
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) All of the above**
2. The term 'Intended Nationally Determined Contributions' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of
 - a) Pledges made by the European countries to rehabilitate refugees from the war-affected Middle East
 - b) Plan of action outlined by the countries of the world to combat climate change**
 - c) Capital contributed by the member countries in the establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
 - d) Plan of action outlined by the countries of the world regarding Sustainable Development Goals
3. The conflict over NagornoKarabakh, recently mentioned in the news, is related to which of the following countries?
 - a) Armenia and Azerbaijan**
 - b) Israel and Palestine
 - c) Kenya and South Sudan
 - d) Eritrea and Ethiopia

4. Consider the following statements, with respect to the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS)
1. It is indigenously developed Artillery Gun System.
 2. It is developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) along with Bharat Forge Limited and Tata Advanced Systems Limited
 3. It is one the longest-range cannon in the world with the range of from 45 to 48 km
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above**

5. Recently, India gifted Dornier 228 aircraft to which of the following country?

- a) Nepal
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Sri Lanka**
- d) Myanmar

6. National Write-shop programme recently seen in news is associated which of the following?

- a) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- b) Ministry of civil aviation
- c) Ministry of Panchayati Raj**
- d) Ministry of Defence

7. The border conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan often mentioned in news, with regards to both the countries consider the following statements

1. Armenia share border with black sea.
2. Azerbaijan share border with Caspian Sea.

Choose the incorrect statement using the codes given below?

- a) 1 only**
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

8. With reference to Global Hunger Index consider the following statements

1. It is biennial report published by UNDP.
2. Except Undernourishment other three indicators are calculated only on children under five years old.

Which of the above statement/s is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only**
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

9. "Yuan Wang 5" ship recently seen in news is belongs to which country?

- a) Japan
- b) Taiwan
- c) China**
- d) Philippines

10. Consider the following statements:

1. Aadhaar metadata cannot be stored for more than three months.
2. State cannot enter into any contract with private corporations for sharing of Aadhaar data.
3. Aadhaar is mandatory for obtaining insurance products.
4. Aadhaar is mandatory for getting benefits funded out of the Consolidated Fund of India.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct ?

- a) 1 and 4 only
- b) 2 and 4 only**
- c) 3 only
- d) 1,2 and 3only